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Council defends school transport decision as the row rumbles on

by TIM CHAPMAN

THE savings that would have been made by the Vale Council if it had introduced a charge for school and college transport for over-16s will have to be made from elsewhere in the education budget.

Last week, the council decided it would continue to provide free school transport for over-16s following opposition from its own scrutiny committee, school teachers, governors and parents, who all argued against it.

The council had originally considered cutting the service to make savings in the education budget.

The Vale cabinet member for education, Coun Tony Hampton, said: "We had 1,117 responses to the consultation exercise and all of these were against the scrapping of, or charging for over-16s transport.

"We in no way want to disadvantage any young person who wishes to continue their education beyond 16, and we have decided to maintain our funding of this service.

"We will, however, be investigating ways to monitor the use of the service – to ensure we are not funding any places on school or service buses that are not fully utilised."

Coun Leader Gordon Kemp, pointed out: "Cutting the transport for over-16s, which the council is not legally required to provide, would have saved the council £175,000 in the remainder of this academic year, and £300,000 in 2011 to 2012 onwards."

He warned: "The current economic climate is having a devastating effect on all council budgets and our education department has to save £3 million over the next two years. The savings we would have made by cutting free transport for over-16s will require savings elsewhere in the education budget.

"Post compulsory education, that is education for over-16s, is directly funded by the Welsh Assembly Government. I would like to see the Assembly fund the whole cost of educating our 16-plus students and that includes transport."

Assembly involvement was a point that Conservative AM Alun Cairns was keen to stress, pointing out that when he proposed a measure in the Assembly which would have made providing transport for the post-16 age group obligatory on all councils in Wales, Labour and Plaid AMs had been opposed to it.

He said: "If that measure had been passed, there would have been no question of the Vale Council having to make any decision. It would have been out of their hands."

But Coun Neil Moore, the Leader of the Labour Group on the Vale Council slammed the cabinet for trying to rewrite history.

He said: "In a cabinet report last November, entitled 'Transport Arrangements for Learners Aged 16-19', the Tory Vale cabinet agreed to consult with stakeholders on the removal of free transport for students over compulsory school age.

"The Tories obviously wanted to scrap this free transport, otherwise they would not have proposed it. However, before they could bring in this draconian plan, they had to consult those affected before implementing their plan.

"The consultation is now over and a campaign against their plans by pupils, parents, teachers and Labour councillors has shown the amount of resentment to this change in policy.

"Not surprisingly, the Tory cabinet have now agreed to abandon their plans to scrap the plan, but they are not content to leave it there. To add insult to the pupils and families who would have been affected, the Tory cabinet has put out a press release saying: 'Vale cabinet saves free school transport for 16-year-olds'.

"I am flabbergasted by the attempt of the council to rewrite history. They clearly had plans to scrap school transport for pupils over-16, but you would not know it, if you read their recent press and web statements!"

Plaid parliamentary candidate Dr Ian Johnson told The GEM he welcomed the fact that those aged 16-19 would continue to receive free transport: "This is excellent news for parents and pupils at a wide range of schools in the Vale, but especially for those in faith schools who have to travel outside of the Vale and would be financially penalised for this.

"This was a flawed plan from the outset, as was recognised by more than 1,100 respondents who disagreed with both of the options given by the Vale Council."

Dying Vale widow was swindled by heartless gang

REPORT by AJ Sicluna

A terminally-ill Sully widow was "emotionally destroyed" after a gang of six 'travellers' conned her out of more than £270,000 by claiming to have carried out work at her home, Cardiff Crown Court heard.

The men, who dealt only in cash, used a Cardiff estate agent's bank account to have £115,000 laundered, said prosecutor Michael Jones.

Mrs Anne Cornock of Dunster Drive, Sully, was "systematically swindled".

She broke down when her daughter told her what had happened.

Sean White (25) of Century Wharf, Cardiff, was jailed for two years after he pleaded guilty to two charges of converting criminal property.

Judge Paul Thomas said that White had allowed his bank account to be used for the stolen cash by the gang, who have not been traced.

White, said the judge, deliberately closed his eyes to what was going on.

"Without thoroughly dishonest people like you, the men who swindled Mrs Cornock could not have prospered so easily".

Mr Jones said White allowed the cash to be paid into his account and knew from the start that the money was "dodgy".

It came from Mrs Cornock, aged 76, a widow and a former bank employee who was known to be "cautious and prudent" in all financial matters.

She had roughly £300,000.

She died in a cancer hospice in Penarth last year. She also suffered from mild dementia.

Her daughter discovered that large sums of money had been withdrawn from her account, including ISAs. The family was so alarmed that the police were contacted.

Mrs Cornock told them the men had relaid her drive, but afterwards they constantly confronted her, claiming she owed them more and more money, Mr Jones added.

"There is no doubt they took advantage of this lady, confusing her." he said.

They told her that White was an accountant acting for the workmen.

The first amount she paid came to £60,000 and this "absolutely threw her".

She was worried by the men and a further £55,000 changed hands.

White was arrested in his Crwys Road office and told the police: "I knew this would happen and I knew you would be coming for me."

He said he had thought about going to the police himself because the men had intimidated him, bombarding him with telephone calls.

He said his profit from the crime was £2,000, and that he had bad personal debts and had also taken a loan of £22,000.

He claimed that he didn't realise that Mrs Cornock was involved, and said he thought it could have been drugs money.

The £2,000 was "to kind of keep him quiet".

Mr Jones said it was discovered that a total of £272,310 had been paid out of her account.

Defence counsel Jeremy Jenkins said that White was not directly involved in the swindle, but he was the conduit for the money and facilitated the way in which it was laundered.

The men, he added, were "of the travellers' community and he knew them only by nicknames."

Mr Jenkins said that they would stop at nothing.

Sometimes they would quarrel among themselves, when knives would be produced.

"He accepts he should have contacted the police immediately. He and his family have faced threats."

FORMER CID CHIEF JAILED

A FORMER head of South Wales Police CID received an 18-month jail sentence earlier this week for corruption.

The judge in the case, which was held at Bristol Crown Court, told him that in view of his behaviour "the public would be justifiably outraged if you didn't receive an immediate custodial sentence."

(For the full story, please turn to page 9).

Pupils at Iolo Morganwg.

The Potato Bucket test!

THE challenge is on to find Cowbridge's 'Potato Bucket Champion' with three local schools taking part in Transition Cowbridge's competition.

This week, the Transition group took buckets, seed potatoes and growing instructions into Y Bont Faen, Ysgol Iolo Morganwg and St David's, Colwinston.

The winner will be the pupil who has grown the heaviest crop of potatoes and will be crowned at a 'Grand Weigh-In' in Arthur John's car park on Saturday, June 19. There will also be prizes for the funniest potato and the best decorated bucket.

Transition has a few buckets left. If you are under 11 and would like to take part, please let the group know. The entry fee is £2 and queries should be made to Rob McGhee on 01446 775686 or by emailing *transitioncowbridge@googlemail.com*

(PICTURES BY MIKE WILCOCK)

Pupils at Y Bont Faen.

Retailers' fashion show for charity

A GROUP of Cowbridge retailers will be organising the fashion show for this year's prestigious Women in Wales Lunch, in aid of the Save the Children charity.

The lunch, to be held on Friday, April 30 at Cardiff City Hall, is the major Save the Children fundraising event in Wales, with more than 400 ladies attending and raising more than £45,000 every year for the charity's work in Wales and globally.

The guest speaker for this year's lunch will be comedian and broadcaster Owen Money and there will also be a silent auction and raffle with some outstanding prizes.

A popular attraction during the lunch is the fashion show, which this year will feature the latest spring and summer designs from six of Cowbridge's High Street retailers: Arthur John & Co, Beckis, Havana Boutique, High Society, Jon Ian, Lois Boutique, Ushis and Woodcocks.

The fashion show will also feature a range of hats by award-winning milliner Alison Tod from Abergavenny.

Awen Evans, co-owner of Cowbridge's High Society bridal boutique said: "As members of the Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, we felt that it was very important that we played our part in supporting the work that Save the Children achieves here in Wales and all over the world.

"We have all been moved by the images of the Haiti earthquake and know that charities such as Save the Children are working flat-out in these situations to help rebuild the lives of those families and children affected by the disaster.

"We are all looking forward very much to taking part in the lunch and will be exhibiting a range of the latest spring and summer designs, which will include bridal wear, casual, formal and evening wear.

"There will also be an interesting twist to this year's fashion show as male models will be wowing the ladies for the first time!"

The Women in Wales lunch is organised by a committee of women dedicated to the work of the charity and who wish to make a difference. The committee is chaired by The Princess Royal's lady-in-waiting, Shân Legge-Bourke, who has been involved in the work of Save the Children for more than 30 years.

"This will be the 18th anniversary of the lunch and we hope that this year's event is going to raise even more funds.

"We are extremely grateful to the Cowbridge retailers for their support and we look forward very much to enjoying this year's fashion show."

TICKETS

Tickets are available for the Women in Wales Lunch priced at £50 each or £500 per table from Awen Evans at High Society on 01446 771775, or Sue from Lois Boutique on 01446 772471. Or contact Sharon Donald at Save the Children on 02920 345 224.

Don't forget to turn your clocks forward this Saturday!

School transport u-turn 'victory for common sense'

WE would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who supported our campaign, alongside Jane Hutt AM and parliamentary candidate Alana Davies, to stop the Tory council withdrawing free school transport for 16 -19 year olds in the Vale of Glamorgan.

From the families directly affected, to school heads and governors, there was complete opposition to the proposal to cut this vital service, which would have discriminated against young people who wished to continue in further education.

A special thank you goes to the parents and representatives from some of the affected schools and colleges who spoke at Scrutiny committee against the proposal and supported us in our fight.

We are delighted that in light of such opposition from the majority of the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny committee, the Tory cabinet reversed their decision to cut free transport – which is a victory for common sense!

Bronwen Brooks & Chris Elmore, Barry (Labour councillors Court & Castleland wards)

Horse Poo –the facts!

I HOPE this will put an end to the hysteria surrounding horse manure: Leptospirosis is transmitted to humans by contact with the urine of rats, cattle, foxes, rodents and other wild animals.

It has been associated with swimming, wading or diving in contaminated lakes and rivers or paddling in streams.

Contrary to a previously published letter, leptospirosis cannot be contracted from horse manure.

As horse manure is 70-80 per cent water, any pathogens within it are heavily diluted and therefore you would have to ingest copious amounts of it to suffer from any adverse conditions.

With regards to horse manure being broken down before it is used on gardens, an award-winning gardener friend of mine regularly uses horse manure as a fertiliser.

It arrives directly from a local stable yard and is then used on all her plants and vegetables, without being left to compost.

To conclude, there are no reports of any humans becoming ill following contact with horse manure.

All these facts can be verified on various websites.

Mrs Viv Pritchard, Dinas Powys

EMAIL US!

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We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Pay rise: 'councillors should remember the low paid workers'

I WAS surprised to hear of the proposal to give Vale councillors a pay rise of 4 per cent, although I understand that this was the recommendation of an outside body.

I know how hard councillors work for their current basic allowance of £13,356, but this is not a full time job.

The full time low paid workers on minimum pay of £5.80 an hour, if over 22 years old, will be earning little if any over the basic allowance of a councillor.

These are the front line workers, such as cleaners and care workers, on whom we all depend.

These low-paid workers have had less than inflation pay rises for the past two years and this year might well have a pay freeze.

Senior management in the Vale have received over-inflation pay settlements in recent years. While the average public sector pay rise for last year was 2.5 per cent, the chief executive actually got 14.3 per cent.

These payments all come out of our council tax and when it is a struggle to maintain our main-line services, I urge councillors and senior management to be prudent salary-wise and have no more increase percentage-wise than the lowest paid workers.

G Baty, Llanblethian

'Don not use Bryneithin as political football'

I WAS somewhat bemused by the comments made by councillors Gordon Kemp and Nic Hodges with regard to the failure of the scrutiny committee to pick up the obvious points made in our legal challenge.

Readers must be made aware of the fact that the scrutiny committee were never given copies of our legal challenges, merely rubber-stamping the director of social services' report.

We made formal requests for this oversight to be corrected but the chair and members of the scrutiny committee were denied copies.

At the time, we kept the matter of the contracts, in reserve, as we felt that the council's failure to obey all current legislation - with regard to the statutory rights of the public and patients - would be sufficient for them to realise the glaring errors in their procedure.

In spite of the clarity of our challenge, the council refused to comply, choosing to ignore the consequences (and the huge waste of public money) in a cavalier manner.

Therefore, the comments of both councillors are at odds with the facts, and their primary interest seemed to be to use the closure of Bryneithin as a political football.

Neither of them played any helpful part in pressing our campaign, beyond seeking publicity for their parties. They now have the opportunity to correct this by supporting our campaign for Bryneithin to be open to new patients and those seeking respite care.

This would nullify the council's restrictions, made in response to their losing their case as a result of their own ineptness.

The final '*coup de gras*' was delivered brilliantly by our excellent solicitor, Yvonne Hossack.

Robin Williams (Advocate for the Keep Bryneithin Open Group)

Kymin Support Group

IF you have been affected by any illness, need support or a chat, come and join our friendly group.

Share fun, laughter and the 'occasional' moan. We meet the first Monday of the month, except Bank Holidays.

Interested? Telephone 01446 792757.

Mrs M Gibbard, Llantwit Major

AM's visit to Stuttgart

I RECEIVED the Conservative Party leaflet 'Vale Matters' through the post this week, referring to the visit Alun Cairns AM has made recently to Stuttgart regarding the closure of the Bosch plant.

However well intentioned Mr. Cairns' visit to Germany might have been, the Vale of Glamorgan Liberal Democrats would like to know:

- Why is Mr. Cairns getting involved in Assembly business for the Vale when he represents south-west Wales (which ends at Bridgend)?
- What benefits do his constituents gain if, even when he's working in the Assembly, he is spending time addressing issues in the Vale?
- Did Mr. Cairns use his Assembly expenses to fund this trip? If so, why does his leaflet talk about him being a hard-working candidate, but fail to mention the fact that he attended as a representative of the Assembly?
- Why is the Welsh taxpayer paying for Mr. Cairns to campaign for a parliamentary seat?

Dr. David Ellis Treasurer, Vale of Glamorgan Liberal Democrats

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 01)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
25 Thur	01.02	7.5	14.01	7.5
26 Fri	02.41	7.9	15.19	8.1
27 Sat	03.46	8.7	16.25	9.0
28 Sun	05.39	9.6	18.14	9.7
29 Mon	06.33	10.1	19.01	10.2
30 Tues	07.18	10.5	19.41	10.3
31 Wed	08.03	10.5	20.20	10.3
01 Thur	08.43	10.2	21.01	10.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide tablespecific to their location.

USEFUL VALE INFORMATION

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111
(Emergency number 999)
COASTGUARD 01792 366534
FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188
HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs:
Drinkline **0800 9178282**
National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
VALE WOMEN'S AID 01446 744755
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
Mental Health Helpline:
Freephone **0800 132 737**
MIND in the Vale of Glamorgan
01446 730792 or www.mindinthevale.org.uk
CHILDLINE 0800 1111 - www.childline.org.uk
Rape Crisis Centre 08451 221331.
RSPCA 0300 123 0744. MIND 01446 746191.
AIDS helplines 0800 567123.
Child abuse – NSPCC 0808 800 5000.
Alcoholics Anonymous – (24 hours) 0845 7697555.
Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000.
Inroads Drugs Project – 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.
Vale Victim & Witness Support - Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's SURGERY TIMES

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

CITIZENS' ADVICE

At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Drop in Mon-Fri (not Weds) 9.30am - 4.30am (Wed 11am-6pm); at Llantwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road 9.30am - 11.30am Mon and Fri. Telephone advice 0845 120 3756. *Further information www.adviceguide.org.uk*

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999.

Gas - Gas emergency number 0800 111999.

Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water - Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130.

Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 700111. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline, 01446 700111.

To report a fly tipping incident - 01446 700111.

HOSPITALS

The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090.

For Out Of Hours Chemists, call the Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board on 02920 350600, or NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647.

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Daredevil family set to skydive from 13,000 feet!

Three brave ladies – Debbie, Marie and Tegan – are ready to skydive to raise funds for the mental health charity Gofal Cymru.

by TIM CHAPMAN

THREE generations of a Barry family are taking part in a dare-devil tandem skydive to raise money for a local mental health charity.

Daughter Tegan (19) mum Debbie (48) and grandmother Marie (70) will jump from 12,000 - 13,000 feet on behalf of Gofal Cymru.

Debbie Twigg explained: "Since starting work for Gofal Cymru in the Vale I have gained an insight into the effects mental health has not only on the individual but also close family, extended family and friends.

"We are all looking forward to the jump which takes place in Swansea on April 4, but are really nervous as well.

"The thought of skydiving from 13,000 feet does turn our stomachs a bit."

Amazingly, Tegan is making the tandem jump despite not liking heights!

"I've never been one for heights but when my mum told me she was considering a skydive I thought 'new year, new challenges!'

"Not only will I be doing the skydive to test my personal boundaries, but it will also be a good way to raise money for a service that helps people to face their issues and move forward with their lives."

Marie, who works at Gibbonsdown Children's Centre, explained: "Skydiving has been a personal ambition of mine for several years and when my daughter told me about the work she does in Gofal Cymru and that the idea was to help others needing support, I thought it's now or never!

"Over the years I have helped raise money for a couple of different charities including Cancer Research by completing several sponsored walks from Barry to Cardiff. I really enjoyed being able to contribute in this way and decided to do something different this year.

"When I was asked 'what next?' by a friend who cannot believe I am doing a skydive, I replied, 'The Bristol Channel,' but I'll have to learn to swim first!"

If you would like further information on the event or the work of the charity you can contact Debbie at Gofal Cymru, 54 Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4HE, tel no 01446 742941. To donate please go to www.justgiving.com/Debbie-Twigg

Burglars are hunted in Pontyclun

POLICE are investigating a suspected distraction burglary at Heol y Bryn, Pontyclun, between 12.15-1pm on Saturday (March 20).

"An 83-year-old female victim allowed access to two males purporting to be from the council after being told that they needed to gain access to her kitchen sink," a police spokeswoman reported.

"It is suspected that whilst the victim was out of the kitchen, the males gained entry to other areas of the house before leaving the address."

One man was described as white, 30-40 years old, around 5ft 8in, of medium build, and wearing blue or grey all-in-one overalls.

The other was described as shorter, aged 20-30 years, wearing jeans and a 'work'-type jacket.

Contact South Wales Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Llangan's Quinlan is Welsh champ...

QUINLAN SILK, a pupil at Llangan Primary School, became the 2010 Under-10 Welsh Orienteering Champion this month.

The two-day orienteering championships were held just outside Aberyswyth and hosted clubs from across Wales.

Orienteering involves navigating around a series of checkpoints marked on a detailed map. To register that a competitor has been to a checkpoint they carry an electronic identity, which they swipe at each checkpoint.

"The course was quite hard," says Quinlan, who runs for South Wales Orienteering Club (SWOC), "but I ran quite fast and only made one mistake."

Often the winner is the competitor who makes fewest mistakes. Quinlan clearly did better than most as he beat the next competitor by 30 minutes!

"Everyone at Llangan Primary School is very proud of their Welsh champion and looks forward to Quinlan, and his sister Jasmine, achieving more successes in the future," said Steve Williams, deputy headteacher.

Double honours for Ysgol Iolo!

Pupils are clearly proud of their top awards.

YSGOL Iolo Morganwg has been presented with two prestigious awards – not only was the school awarded the Basic Skills Quality Standard for the third time but it was recognised as an Investor In People.

Together with the certificates and plaques, thorough reports were written outlining many of the school's strengths.

The Basic Skills report outlines that the school makes effective use of data in recognising children's needs whenever they join the establishment.

This is a particular strength of the school as many children who attend come from English-speaking families and manage to leave at the age of 11 being fully bi-lingual.

The school also monitors pupils' progress carefully and uses a variety of intervention strategies with groups in order to raise standards.

Assessors praised the school in all five standards and said that self evaluation, planning and the vision of the school was excellent.

Mr Neil Huxtable, an external assessor from Investors in People stated in his report that among the strengths and good practices were excellent team work and strong leadership from the headteacher and senior management.

The report adds: "The school is getting bigger – but every one of our children remains important to us.

"If the school is evolving, our aim is still that pupils, one and all, have fun in succeeding."

Chair of the governing body, Aled Huw, welcomed the findings of the reports and added:

"These awards are excellent achievements; Ysgol Iolo Morganwg is a truly magnificent school, that caters for the needs of all children.

"The school has clear aims, objectives and values and these findings re-enforce the fact that children at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg receive a first class education."

DE

Tom shows great racing potential

HAVING COME on in leaps and bounds throughout 2009, highly-rated young South Wales karting hotshot Tom Harvey has been tipped as a challenger for British title glory in 2010 – and in the opening round of the fiercely-contested Super 1 Series at Shenington, he justified that billing and then some.

TOM HARVEY.

His performance around Shenington – arguably the fastest circuit in the country – demonstrated just how much progress he has made over the intervening 12 months.

Second spot out of the 39 entrants in qualifying – set the tone for what would turn out to be an excellent weekend.

"The heats were ridiculously close," said Tom, "but I thrive on that type of racing. Two of us just pushed away at the front, and then it all came down to the last lap both times.

The last lap is crucial – you've got to think tactically all the way through the race and try to spot where your rival's weaknesses are so that you know where to try to attack and hopefully overtake them."

In another incredibly tight finish, a single hundredth of a second separated Tom from the top spot in the pre-final as Max Vaughan just pipped him at the chequered flag.

Beginning the grand final from second, the Cowbridge pupil shunned any notions that he was on the unfavourable side of the starting grid and calmly and maturely focused on the job in-hand, however, he was again pipped by Max to finish second.

Only four points off the championship lead, the manner in which he and Vaughan transformed the finals into their own private duel out front suggests an awesome, tooth-and-nail battle lies in prospect.

It is one that the popular Fusion Motorsport ace is palpably relishing.

Pendoylan pupils back Sports Relief

ON Friday, March 19 the children at Pendoylan Church in Wales School participated in an all day football match for Sport Relief.

Classes were split into four teams and played each other in good spirit.

The weather stayed dry until 1pm and then the game continued in the hall. At 2.30pm every class came outside, in the rain, and did the Conga around the school with smiles and very wet hair!

Broaden your circle of friends

I WOULD be grateful if you could bring to your readers' attention that the Cowbridge and District Senior Citizen Association meet on a regular basis throughout the year.

I would encourage anyone of this age group who would like to meet and enhance their social network to come along to the Lesser Hall, Town Hall, Cowbridge, on the third Thursday of every month at 2pm.

The chairman and his committee have planned an exciting programme of events for the forthcoming year. Because of the generosity of the Vale Council, the Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council and the donations of various benefactors, we are able to offer monthly subsidised trips to interesting places throughout the year.

This year, there will be trips to Carmarthen, Ross and Monmouth, Abergavenny, Malmsbury, Glastonbury, Wells and the Cheddar Gorge and many other interesting places.

These visits are in addition to the monthly meetings at the Lesser Hall. Those who attend the monthly meetings, will of course, receive the full subsidy, while those who do not attend the monthly meetings, can participate in the trips, but would have to pay a more realistic bust still attractive fare.

The meetings themselves are interesting: On April 15 at 2pm we will have the students' choir from Atlantic College. In addition we have speakers lined up for the year.

So why not come and join us on April 15, have a cup of tea and a chat and listen to the international group of singers.

The annual subscription is still only £5. For such a small amount, you can gain more friends, widen your knowledge and enjoy travel.

I look forward to seeing you in April. Don't be shy, there will be a warm welcome awaiting you!

John Lewis Jones (president)

Learning about the justice system

SOUTHERNDOWN WI

THAT there is always more to know about articles in the press was admirably demonstrated to Southerndown WI at the March monthly meeting.

A visiting team from the probation service in Bridgend, Mr Tony Thomas JP, and the chairman of Merthyr Tydfil magistrates, liaised with Mr Paul James and Mr Mansel Jones, probation co-ordinator in south Wales, to guide members through a typical court case.

Synopses of a report were read, members gave their immediate reaction and then heard the experts' comments. Needless to say, views changed.

There were many facts, figures and statistics to absorb, not least that it costs £37,000 a year to keep a criminal in prison. The average age of a first time offender is 18 for boys, 16 for girls.

This was an excellent evening in which everyone participated and the visiting team presented so well. Anyone of us could be involved and we were urged to visit a public court.

Absentees missed a stimulating, informative, interesting and worthwhile meeting.

Other business was brought to the attention of the institute by president Rhiannon Gaen. The link meeting is at Colwinston on May 18 and the Glamorgan quiz is at Porthcawl on June 30. Glamorgan Show schedules are available.

The next monthly meeting is on April 8, St Brides Major church hall at 7.15pm when Brian Davies will talk about Bridges of Wales.

BM

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Rubbish clearance

THANK you to the people responsible for the removal of the unsightly mound of rock and rubble which had been left by the builders of the new development in Treoes.

Saron Chapel

A SERVICE will be held at Saron Chapel, Treoes, on Easter Sunday (April 4) at 3pm, conducted by Rev Alwyn Evans.

A warm welcome will be extended to everyone.

St Canna's

ON March 28 (Palm Sunday) there is no family service at St Canna's.

There will be a Benefice service at St Crallo's Coychurch.

Pottery painting

GO along to Llangan and St Mary Hill community hall on Wednesday, March 31 and try your skill at pottery painting at 2pm.

The fun continues on Thursday, April 1 at 2pm for the arts and crafts lesson.

On Saturday, April 3 at 1pm, there will be an Easter event when you can test your skill in a game of boules.

Children are welcome at these events but must be accompanied by an adult.

TRANSITION COWBRIDGE ADDS TASTY FLAVOUR OF FAIRTRADE!

COWBRIDGE Farmers' Market was held last Saturday – with a Fairtrade addition to the existing stalls.

Transition Cowbridge had a refreshment stand at the market, selling Fairtrade products, as well as tea, coffee and cakes. Business was brisk, despite the inclement weather

The stall holders also held a popular customers' raffle, which was drawn by David John, seen with Anders Leijerstam (in bottom picture) the organiser of their new attraction.

PHOTOGRAPHS by MIKE WILCOCK

RIGHT: There were no reported difficulties finding the way to the market!

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Ogmore-by-sea campaigners hold meeting with Vale AM

FOLLOWING a recent packed public meeting at St Brides Major church hall, the Vale AM, Jane Hutt, agreed to meet Ogmore-by-Sea Campaign committee members, and chair Mr Ken Hubble, to walk along the coast path and view developments in the picturesque heritage coastal village.

Afterwards, the AM commented: "Ogmore-by- Sea is such a beautiful village and I have had a number of letters and emails since the public meeting from local residents, expressing their concerns about the proposal to develop more flats at the Sea Lawns site, which has been a pub and focal point for the community.

"We enjoyed a walk along the coastal path and viewed the developments that have already taken place in the village.

"I shall be making representations to the planning committee on behalf of the village, the AM promised.

CAOS COFFEE

THE Cowbridge Amateur Operatic Society is holding another coffee morning, with all the usual fun – tombola, raffle, stalls, gifts and prizes and biscuits on Saturday, March 27 from 10am-12.30pm in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall. For more information, telephone 01446 713110.

Now you can read your Cowbridge GEM online at ***cowbridge-today.co.uk***

WRVS outing was rare treat!

THE Cowbridge WRVS lunch club had their annual outing to the Coliseum in Aberdare to see the show *We'll meet again*.

It was fabulous and as the title suggests, was full of songs and memories of 1939-1946.

The cast was unforgettable, solo and together. When they invited the audience to join in the singing, we sang our hearts out until our throats were dry (well, I did!).

After the show, we finished the day with tea at the Copthorne Hotel, Culverhouse Cross.

We all thank Ena for the work and thought she put into arranging such an enjoyable day.

Eve Balfour (aged 91)
Llanblethian

Maendy YFC take public-speaking title

From Left to right stands: Miss Beth Jeffreys (Neath YFC), Miss Hannah Lewis (Maendy), Miss Rebecca Harry (Maendy), Miss Natalie Lewis (Maendy) & Miss Jayne Brace (Team trainer). Please note, fellow team member Mr Rhidian Thomas is absent from the photo.

AT the recent Wales Young Farmers' Clubs public speaking contest, Maendy YFC members Hannah Lewis, Natalie Lewis and Rebecca Harry, along with Beth Jeffreys (Neath YFC) and Rhidian Thomas (Llantrisant YFC) beat off stiff competition to bring home the silverware for Glamorgan.

Last weekend, junior, intermediate and senior public speaking teams from across Wales come together at the Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells.

Teams went head to head in their given age categories to decide who was best on the day.

Anysha Panesar (Maendy) took part in the junior competition, speaking with confidence and enthusiasm.

Glamorgan did well in all categories but it was only the senior team who managed to lift the trophy.

The team will now go forward to represent Wales YFC at the national competition in October*.

Sincere thanks are extended to Miss Jayne Brace for training and supporting the team throughout the preparation and competing stages.

It was also the weekend of the Wales YFC drama competition; Maendy took to the stage to close the show on Saturday evening.

The whole cast and team backstage did Glamorgan proud, but unfortunately the team were not placed.

There are various activities coming up in club, including a trip to Playzone in Swansea on Tuesday, March 16.

Anyone interested in coming along or joining should please contact chairman Natalie Lewis (07841 486440).

There is also a competitions day fast approaching on March 28, including cookery, club promotion, and welsh public speaking to name but a few.

HL

COMMUNITY NEWS

LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN

Your community correspondents are Sam & Patsie Smith on (01446) 751448

WHIST DRIVE

THE Llancarfan Society's next whist drive will be on Tuesday, March 30 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Admission (as usual) is £1 and there will be prizes, a raffle and refreshments.

Other dates are April 27, May 25, June 29, July 27, August 31, September 28, October 26, November 30 and December 28.

CURRY NIGHT

LLANCARFAN Cricket Club has announced that it is are holding a curry night at the Fox and Hounds on Thursday, April 29 starting at 7.30pm.

All are welcome and tickets are available either from Sue at the Fox or Rob John (01446 710376).

NEWS FROM FONMON APIARY

Spring is on the way and the bees are out foraging!

THE weather pattern has changed somewhat this month, and the bees are responding accordingly; rising temperatures and drier conditions have seen the bees out foraging.

Spring is definitely on the way, pussy willow catkins are now out, as are celandines and crocuses. All of these are providing pollen sources for the bees, many of which I have observed returning to their respective hives with pollen sacs very full.

As yet, no real internal inspection of a hive has been carried out – this act will require much warmer conditions. However, I have cleaned hive parts and made up new frames with new beeswax foundation in them. One an in-depth inspection of any of the hives is carried out, items will be replaced as per requirements.

So far this year, I have carried out one Varroa mite check on each of the five hives at the apiary and the results are very encouraging, but as the queen will be increasing her egg-laying rate in the coming weeks, the mite numbers can be expected to follows suit.

The last chemical treatment my hives had was carried out in October 09 and the low mite counts I am observing now are a consequence of that treatment. No further treatment will be carried out (chemical) as in essence the honeyflow is about to get under way, especially in my case, as oilseed rape will soon be coming into bloom and given fair weather, the bees will take full advantage of this early harvest.

Not all beekeepers like the honey from the oilseed rape as it needs a different approach to the removal from the hive and in the bottling.

For myself, I don't mind it one bit, and as the bees love it anyway, I have no choice.

So the apiary at Fonmon is coming to life; what will this year bring? It is the intention of Cardiff, the Valley & the Vale Beekeeping Association to embark on a queen rearing scheme this year. For many of us, this will be a new and interesting venture and will be of benefit to beekeepers new and old, should it bear fruit.

Not forgetting the bees which are being established at Dyffryn Gardens. They are doing very well. All three hives have come through the winter, and much activity is observed on each visit.

These bees have the advantage of much forage within the Dyffryn Garden complex itself; in particular the beds of purple and white heathers. All in all, things look very good, given suitable weather conditions, perhaps a honey crop may be had this season.

Much activity is afoot. We have many new beekeepers in the offing, and I will be reporting on their fortunes (or lack of same) as time goes on. The April notes will hopefully be more extensive – it is bound to be spring for real then, will it not?

HAROLD WILLIAMS

Calling old Comrades!

FORMER members of the Royal Regiment of Wales (RRW) are attempting to form a Royal Welsh Regiment Comrades Association in the Vale.

The Vale has hundreds of ex-members of the Welch Regt, South Wales Borderers, RRW, RWF, and now The Royal Welsh Regiment, but does not have a Comrades association.

E-Mail vogcomrades@hotmail.co.uk for further information.

The Phantom arrives to help his village church!

LAST Saturday, Jeffrey Robinson, the Warden of St Cattwg's Church in Llanmaes, had a surprise visitor.

...Someone who had lived in the village as a boy and was now returning to help the church he had learnt was about to start raising money to replace the roof...

He was none other than the famous West-End musical star of *Phantom of the Opera,* Peter Karrie.

Mr Robinson, said that he was delighted to see Peter again.

Previously he had helped the village to raise money in support of measures to combat the menace of flooding. He was now returning once again to help protect the ancient village church which, in its present form, dates from 1234 but is on the site of a much earlier Celtic foundation.

It is thought possible that the roof may have last been replaced during the reign of William IV - shortly before the reign of Queen Victoria.

"Peter Karrie's gift of £500 towards the Phase Three process of restoration gives the church a wonderful start to this important work".

Mr Robinson said he and his fellow warden, Kerry Veale, were indebted to Peter Karrie for his generous support and looked forward to inviting him back, hopefully in the not too distant future, to see that this ancient building, so long part of the community, is safe again for another generation.

ABOVE: Jeffrey Robinson with Peter Karrie (on left).

News in and out of the class from Llanhari Primary School

WE all had a fantastic time celebrating St David's Day on Monday, March 1.

Pupils at Llanhari Primary worked hard to make our eisteddfod a success.

A big thanks to the Parents' Association for serving tea, coffee and Welsh cakes during the eisteddfod; £71 was raised and will be donated to the Bobath Cymru charity which supports children with cerebral palsy.

Rugby triumph

The rugby team had another success in an unexpected match against Penygawsi on March 3. Jack Burgess, Jack Hopkins and Rhys Thomas of class 6 prepared this report.

"We were training as normal when suddenly Penygawsi turned up! At the start of the game we kicked to them and in quick succession we were 5-0 up after tries by Jack Hopkins.

Penygawsi restarted and Morgan Parsons made an amazing run down the wing which paid off to make it 10-0.

Both our forwards and backs were fantastic and scored another five tries in the first half.

In the second half, we attacked with all our strength and gathered two more tries – all this before Penygawsi had even scored their first!

Following Penygawsi's first try, Llanhari scored another three! Penygawsi fought back and managed to score another two tries, but it was too late. The game ended with the scores Llanhari 60, Penygawsi 15.

Try scorers: Jack Hopkins (4), Jack Burgess (2), Morgan Parsons (5), Harri Lewis (1).

Eisteddfod results

The overall house winner for the eisteddfod this year was Ty Coch with 371 points; 2nd, Ty Gwyrdd (300 points); 3rd, Ty Melyn (290 points).

Art winners/ Ennillwyr Celf

Class 1/Nursery: 1st, Paris Vowles (Coch), 2nd, Kiera James (Coch); 3rd, Mitchell Casley (Coch).

Class 1/Reception: Olivia Coughlan (Gwyrdd); 2nd, Kamil Jaworski (Coch); 3rd, Dylan Reed (Gwyrdd).

Class 2: 1st, Siobhan Roberts (Coch); 2nd, Abigail Trebble (Coch); 3rd, Ethan Barnes (Coch).

Class 3: 1st, Shannon Minnett (Coch); 2nd, Shay-Louise Woodland (Melyn); 3rd,= Jack Gethin (Gwyrdd) and Latisha Lloyd (Gwyrdd).

Class 4: 1st, Jamie Gill (Coch); 2nd, Rebecca Beach (Melyn); 3rd, Luke Wigley (Coch).

Class 5: 1st, Angel Lowery (Melyn); 2nd, Cameron Jones (Melyn); 3rd, Seana Powell (Coch).

Class 6: 1st, Jack Hopkins (Melyn); 2nd, Chloe Lovelock (Melyn); 3rd, Rhys Thomas (Gwyrdd).

Handwriting winners/Ennillwyr Llawysgrifen

Class 1/Nursery: 1st, Katie Howell (Coch); 2nd, Kiera James (Coch); 3rd, Brook Hill (Gwyrdd).

Class 1/Reception: 1st, Eleanor Heaslip (Melyn); 2nd, Gethin Sharp (Coch); 3rd, Amelia Thomas (Melyn).

Class 2: 1st, Nathanial Cudmore (Coch); 2nd= Connor Lewis (Gwyrdd), Siobhan Roberts (Coch); 3rd, Levi lewis (Melyn).

Class 3: 1st, Luke James (Melyn); 2nd, Sadie Kemp (Coch); 3rd, Ashton Austin (Coch).

Class 4: 1st, Chloe Trebble (Coch); 2nd, Leah Austin (Coch); 3rd, Selena Lemonheigh (Gwyrdd).

Class 5: 1st, Cameron Minnett (Coch); 2nd, Jack Almond (Coch); 3rd, Teigan Blanch (Gwyrdd).

Class 6: 1st, Chloe Lovelock (Melyn); 2nd, Lewis Simpkins (Coch); 3rd, Taylor Pring (Coch).

Recitation winners/ Ennillwyr Adrodd

Class 2: 1st, Abigail Trebble (Coch); 2nd, Maddie Thomas (Gwyrdd); 3rd, Ethan Milsom (Melyn).

Class 3: 1st, Sadie Kemp (Coch); 2nd, Callum Austin (Melyn); 3rd, Olivia Cross (Gwyrdd).

Class 4: 1st, Jamie Gill (Coch); 2nd, Thomas Hurley (Melyn); 3rd, Brittney Moyle (Bwyrdd).

Class 5: 1st, Niall Cudmore (Melyn); 2nd, Rhys Griffin (Gwyrdd); 3rd, Megan Austin (Coch).

Class 6: 1st, Harri Lewis (Melyn); 2nd, Rhys Thomas (Gwyrdd); 3rd, Lauren Billett (Coch).

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OPPOSITION MOUNTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BRISTOL CHANNEL AS...

Night-time helicopter withdrawal sparks an angry protest campaign

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

A CAMPAIGN has been launched on both sides of the Bristol Channel to fight proposals to reduce the cover provided by the air-sea rescue helicopter at RAF Chivenor.

Most of the rescue flights to deal with emergencies along the coast and also in the Brecon Beacons, come from the Devon air base but the Ministry of Defence has announced that it wishes to cut the service provided by the crews at Chivenor from a 24-hour-a-day cover to 12 hours.

Emergencies that take place at night, when Chivenor will be off-line, will be dealt with by helicopters based either at RAF Culdrose, which is at the tip of Cornwall, or RAF Valley on Anglesey. The changes would come into effect in 2012.

The protest campaign originated in the West Country and has already gained the backing of Cornwall and Devon County Councils; Devon Police, district councils in the area, a number of MPs as well as groups involved with sea based activities including sub aqua clubs, canoeists, surfers, yacht owners and fishermen. The British Mountaineering Council has also protested.

Support is now being sought on the Welsh side of the channel and councils along the coast are getting involved.

An e-mail from Ilfracombe Town Council has been sent to councils seeking support for the campaign. The campaigners argue that cover for the area served by Chivenor would only be available if helicopters are not already involved in operations in their own areas.

During 2009, Chivenor handled the highest number of call-outs at 339 – compared to 300 from Culdrose and 315 from Anglesey.

A third of the calls received were at night and there are fears that the two other stations will not be able to cope with an extra 100 night time emergencies a year, on top of their own call-outs.

Flying time from Culdrose to the Bristol Channel is half an hour, with the arrival time from Anglesey put at one hour – assuming good flying conditions.

There are no second helicopters and stand-by crews in any of the stations, so once the helicopter is out, there will be no cover for their area.

The Culdrose station covers the Isles of Scilly and islanders depend on its helicopter for all medical evacuations at night. Lundy, which has up to 200 residents, relies on Chivenor for this service.

Search and rescue teams are also concerned about the delays in arrival times because helicopters can search large areas quickly especially at sea.

Chivenor is also used by the NHS for the transfer of critically-ill patients between hospitals at night because air ambulances do not operate then.

A Facebook site to save the 24-hour service has been set up, and it already has 10,000 names.

The campaign is being backed by Coun Jeff James, who represents Rhoose and is a cabinet member on the Vale Council.

"I am shocked that this cut-back is being proposed," he said. "It is devastating. We need the 24-hour cover from Chivenor in view of the extra travelling time from these other bases.

"All the coastal authorities in south Wales must take this up and join the fight."

Coun James represents the Vale Council on the Severnside and Bristol Channel Authorities Group and he will put this on the agenda for its next meeting.

"I am also appalled that, as a local authority affected, the Vale Council has not been consulted by the Ministry of Defence," he said.

"I will be asking the officers to contact West Country councils to obtain details of their campaign."

Coun David Deere, Conservative leader on Porthcawl Town Council, said that the RAF helicopter from Chivenor was a familiar sight to residents.

He said: "I am very concerned that there are plans to curtail this service.

"We are a major tourism resort with thousands of visitors here in the summer. This proposal will have a major impact on the safety of everyone using the sea along the south Wales coast."

Coun Deere is to raise this issue at the next meeting of the council with a view to pledging support for the campaign.

He added: "We have decision-makers at the Ministry who obviously do not understand the strong tides and currents we have in the Bristol Channel and fail to realise how easy it is for swimmers and others to get into difficulties."

Coun Russell Downe, Mayor of Llantwit Major, said that he was shocked by the news. He said: "I have been in a rescue helicopter myself after I was involved in a car crash and I can testify personally as to how effective they are in getting quickly to the scene of an incident and evacuating people. This is a vital service."

Coun Downe said that the Bristol Channel had the second highest rise and fall of tide in the world, and that factor also had to be considered.

"Llantwit beach attracts a lot of visitors especially in the summer and although we rely on the lifeboat at Atlantic College, there are times when the helicopter has to be called in for a rescue.

"We cannot have unnecessary delays. We are dealing with life and death situations."

Bridgend Town Council discussed the situation at its meeting last Monday and agreed to lodge a holding objection while more information is obtained.

"We must keep this service operating 24 hours a day from Chivenor," said council leader David Unwin. "Seeing the Sea King helicopter is a very welcome sight when there's an emergency going on along the coast at Southerndown or Ogmore by Sea.

"You cannot quantify the saving of a life. We must put pressure on our AM, Carwyn Jones."

The council will write to First Minister Mr Jones to find out what the view of the Welsh Assembly Government is on this matter.

Household waste recycling centre gets the go-ahead

THE Vale Council cabinet has given the go-ahead for a new household waste recycling centre at the Atlantic Trading Estate in Barry.

Council leader Coun Gordon Kemp said: "Construction work is due to commence within the next few months, with the centre scheduled to open by the end of the year."

It will replace the existing Hayes Road site near Sully, and will provide additional recycling and disposal facilities, with vastly improved access and egress, allowing for a greater throughput of vehicles.

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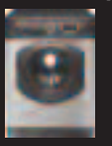

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Honesty is the best policy for facing the challenge ahead

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by ***Jane Hutt AM***
(Minister for Business and Budget)

PROTECTING our public services in the tough times ahead: This was one of the messages of the First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM at a Bevan Foundation conference last week which marked his 'first 100 days' in the post.

He told the conference that he would vigorously pursue a fairer funding formula for Wales from the UK Government, but warned the delegates that after an unprecedented rise in public spending over the past 10 years, the Assembly Government would see a major 'reining' in of its spending power.

He said: "We need to be honest about the challenge – public expenditure will be very tight. It won't be easy – and it certainly won't be painless."

With Assembly Elections timed for May 2011, the theme of the conference was 'One Wales, One year to go' and the First Minister said that the challenge would be to deliver radical solutions to delivering with tighter resources – and to do this without having to report to wholesale job losses in a bid to balance the books.

He was keen to emphasise that we need genuine joined-up thinking, aiming for solutions that could intertwine social, economic and environmental challenges.

I am taking up this challenge in my new role as Finance Minister for Wales, leading a group of key people from across the public sector, from local government, the NHS, the voluntary sector and trade unions, to drive up efficiency and innovation in the way we provide our public services.

Our first meeting was held last week in Cardiff Bay and the work we are undertaking together covers those key areas where we can be more efficient, effective and imaginative.

This includes the way we procure contracts for the public and private sectors, securing value for money but also community benefits such as new opportunities for apprenticeships as we have seen in the Cowbridge Comprehensive School building contract.

It was great to see the contractors and designers for the school at the recent careers fair at Cowbridge Leisure Centre, taking responsibility for engaging and informing pupils from across the Vale about the opportunities that are available in the construction sector, as a result of our decisions to bring forward capital funding for building new schools and hospitals over the past year.

The strands of the efficiency and innovation programme include developing new models of delivering services with a greater emphasis – for example, in joining up health and social care.

Making the most of our assets in the public sector, such as land and buildings as well as engaging our workforce in the tough times that lie ahead is part of our remit, with the Wales TUC as a key partner.

Last Thursday, I was able to announce a new round of funding for 'Invest to Save' projects which can deliver better public services and release savings in the NHS and local government.

This strong drive for efficiency will enable us to protect front line jobs and services and help us to improve our public services in health, education, housing and social services.

This accords with our new legislative powers announced this week to support people receiving care and treatment in our mental health services.

The Health and Social Services Minister, Edwina Hart AM, introduced the new Mental Health measure to provide an assessment of a person's mental health needs and where appropriate, provide treatment within primary care; plus a statutory duty on local health boards and local authorities to provide mental health support in primary care – and to have arrangements for timely access for assessment and access to advocacy support.

The efficiency and innovation agenda also links to the energy policy statement made by Jane Davidson AM this week as she states the need to maximise energy savings and energy efficiency in order to make the majority of our energy production from low carbon sources more feasible and less costly.

The Minister points to our commitment to sustainable energy development delivered through our energy efficiency savings plan and our green jobs strategy.

Of course, our new schools, hospitals and social housing are all vastly more energy efficient.

Fairer funding for Wales is a pledge made by our First Minister and the Secretary of State for Wales as we assess the impact of Wednesday's Budget and start work on the budget plans for the coming years.

What is clear is that we have a responsibility and duty in the Welsh Assembly Government to protect our public services – to be honest about the challenge and priorities we will have to set, and be more efficient in the way we work.

Lydia's story strikes a chord in Cornwall

LAST week's GEM story 'The Sound of Silence' – in which Mrs Lydia Davies recalled the events of the Llandow air disaster in 1950 drew a response from Cornwall.

Mrs Davies (80) who at the time of the tragedy lived at Park Farm, Sigingstone with her parents Evan and Olwen, recalled how the family had cared for two survivors of the crash, which had occurred in a neighbouring field.

In total, 80 people died in the disaster and there were only three survivors.

Pat Merrifield (78) who lives in Cornwall was excited to learn of the story in The GEM and to hear that Lydia is hale and hearty.

She told The GEM: "I used to work with Lydia when I was 15 at the tailor's shop at Llandow Aerodrome. Although we only knew each other for a short time, we were close friends and used to share a lot of laughs – we even shared the same birthday, May 21!

"Lydia was two years older than me. I was later transferred to work in St Athan and we gradually lost touch. I remember reading that Lydia and her father had helped at the time of the crash."

Since, the 1940s Pat has lived quite a life. She married Brian, an RAF man, in 1949, had nine children, and has travelled the world, including such far flung places as Singapore, South Africa and Australia.

Pat retired to Liskeard in Cornwall seven years ago, but still finds time to visit South Africa to catch up with friends.

She found out about Lydia's story thanks to her sister Pearl, who lives in Llantwit Major and is a regular GEM reader.

The GEM is helping Pat to get in contact with Lydia so they can both catch up on old times. Watch this space!

Grilling for the Commons hopefuls

VALE prospective parliamentary candidates at the next general election will be grilled at a public Question Time session in barry Comprehensive School from 7pm on April 20.

They are: Alun Cairns (Conservative); Alana Davies (Labour); Ian Johnson (Plaid Cymru); Kevin Mahoney (UKIP); Eluned Parrott (Liberal Democrats).

Headteacher Mr D R Swallow explained: "Doors will be open from 6.30pm and refreshments will be served.

"Entrance is by ticket, requested in advance from the school, and these will be issued on a first come basis.

"The audience will have a chance to submit written questions to the school up until Monday April 19 and from these questions, a broad range will be selected on as many relevant topics as possible.

"The candidates will not know the questions until they are asked them on the night."

"It is envisaged that the evening will last for about 90 minutes.

"As this is expected to be close to the general election, and perhaps the only time the candidates will be on the platform at the same time, there should be considerable interest in the event," Mr Swallow added.

Requests for tickets and questions for candidates can be made in writing to Barry Comprehensive School, Port Road West, Barry CF62 8ZJ or via www.barrycomp.com.

Include your name, address, telephone number, the number of tickets you require and, if you wish, your question to the candidates.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

VALE Volunteer Bureau is hosting surgeries to offer advice and information to people wishing to become a volunteer worker/

They will be held on this Friday (March 26) in Dinas Powys library at 10am-12pm; on Saturday (March 27) in Llantwit Major library from 11pm-1pm and also at Filco's supermarket from 1pm-4pm.

For further information, contact Joe on 01446 421782 or visit www.vvb.org.uk

Tory surgery

JOHN CLIFFORD, Conservative councillor, will hold a surgery at Llantwit Major Heritage Centre on Saturday (March 27) at 11am-12noon.

'Rescue helicopter cut-backs will put lives at risk' – claim

CONSERVATIVE regional AM Alun Cairns (South Wales West) says he will challenge the Ministry of Defence over its plans to scale back operational hours for the air sea rescue helicopter based at RAF Chivenor.

Mr Cairns said that plans to withdraw this helicopter service at night, by reducing it from a 24-hour service to a 12-hour one, would impact on the safety of people along the south Wales coast.

"I represent an area which stretches from Gower along Swansea Bay to the Vale of Glamorgan. Thousands of visitors flock to our coast daily in summer and I fear that lives will be put at risk by this proposal.

"The Bristol Channel has dangerous currents and tides and we need a rescue helicopter service available 24 hours a day which is within easy flying distance," he maintained.

"The Ministry has said that from 2012 the area will be covered at night by crews from RAF Culdrose in Cornwall or RAF Valley in Anglesey. Both bases are further away - and in the case of Anglesey, it's an hour's flying time. The increase in time it will take to get a helicopter on station could literally mean the difference between life and death."

RAF Chivenor handled 339 call-outs in 2009 – with more than 100 of these taking place at night.

"Opponents of the plan fear that the two other bases, which have their own areas to cover, will not have the capacity to take on the extra call-outs that this plan entails.

"Only one crew is based at each site so once that's on a call, there is no stand-by crew or helicopter. This proposal could put lives at risk not just at sea but also in the mountains of south and mid Wales which Chivenor also covers."

Mr Cairns will back the campaign to keep Chivenor a 24-hour operation. The main opposition to MoD proposals has come from West Country councils, police forces and MPs, but the campaign is now seeking support from the Welsh side of the Channel.

Weaver's tale

THE Glamorgan Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers will hear a talk on Wednesday, April 14 at 7.30pm in Old School, Sully, by Alain Rouveure on 'Tibetan rugs in exile'.

It describes a journey through the Himalayas in search of the ancient art of Tibetan rug weaving and vegetable dyeing.

For further details, telephone Kirsten Gable on 01443 650336.

PUPILS (and police) WALKING TALL, THANKS TO FUNDING!

AN outward bound scheme organised by South Wales Police for pupils at local schools is being expanded, following a funding boost.

During the school summer holidays last year, the four Schools Liaison Officers for the Vale took nearly 250 pupils away for outward bound activities to Storey Arms, Brecon, thanks to funding from local town councils, businesses and Penarth Rotary Club.

The children had a "fantastic time", but the extreme summer weather caused the officers some concern.

PC Chris Thompson, School's Liaison Officer for Barry, explained: "Mountain weather can change very quickly and we were fortunate that the Storey Arms Centre were able to loan us the wet weather gear for the walks. We were lucky the clothing happened to be available but it is not a long-term option."

Following the success of the summer camps, the officers have set up a mentoring scheme to take pupils on day walks throughout the year.

PC Kevin Pennell, Schools Liaison Officer for Cowbridge, said: "With the equipment issue in mind applications were made to the Vale Centre for Voluntary Services (VCVS) "Kick Start III" grant and the Safer Vale Partnership's "Community Engagement Fund."

PC Meriel Blake, Schools Liaison Officer for Llantwit Major added: "Both these bids were successful and we have been able to buy plenty of wet weather gear for the pupils as well as important safety equipment and additional training for the officers.

"This is a real 'kick start' and will ensure that the summer camp and the mentoring scheme will be able to run safely and effectively for many years to come."

PC Emma Mudie, Schools Liaison Officer for Penarth also commented: "The new equipment has meant that we can take groups out at any time of the year, rather than limiting us to the summer months.

"It also makes the trips accessible to all as we are able to provide the appropriate clothing. This funding has made a huge difference to the interaction we can offer young people and we would like to thank all those involved."

Lauren Campbell, from year-9, St Cyres School, Penarth wearing one of the newly-supplied waterproof jackets.

LEFT: PCs Chris Thompson and Emma Mudie with their new wet weather gear and map reading equipment.

Woman cut free from car after crash on bypass

ABOVE: A recovery vehicle prepares to take the damaged car away.

A woman driver escaped with minor injuries after her car crashed on the A48 Cowbridge by-pass last Thursday (March 18) at around 8.50am. Only the one car was involved and the female driver had to be cut free from the Renault Clio.

EASTER SERVICE

FRIENDS of the small medieval foundation church of St Lawrence at Lavernock Point are holding their first service of the year on Easter Sunday at 3pm, led by honorary chaplain Rev Margaret Stark.

All are welcome. For enquiries, telephone 07939 206604.

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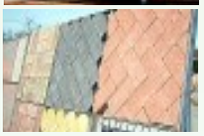

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Drive past the village post office, taking the next right signposted Llanharan.

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Give a Little, Gain a Lot

'IT SADDENS THIS COURT TO SEE HOW YOU CONSPIRED WITH YOUR FRIENDS... BECAUSE YOU KNEW THEY WERE PREPARED TO BREAK THE LAW ' – SAYS JUDGE

Former South Wales CID chief jailed for 'corrupt' behaviour

A FORMER head of South Wales Police CID was jailed on Monday for using his police contacts to gain information for his private investigation agency.

Philip Jones (63) of Aberkenfig, near Bridgend, served 30 years with South Wales Police and retired as Detective Chief Superintendent of the force's Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

He then launched a private investigations agency and persuaded colleague David Lloyd (55) of Pen-y-Fai, to pass him information from police computer systems.

Jones also used freelance investigator Christopher Barnett (37) to illegally pose as a customer to gain information from government and private institutions.

The former detective admitted conspiracy to commit wilful misconduct in a public office and conspiracy to commit fraud by false representation at Bristol Crown Court in December 2008.

Jailing him for 18 months at the same court on Monday, Judge Simon Darwall-Smith slammed his behaviour as "corrupt" and criticised his "lack of moral fibre".

He said: "For a person of your age and former seniority, retiring at the rank of Detective Chief Superintendent, it saddens this court to see how you conspired with your friends David Lloyd and Barnett because you knew they were prepared to break the law to access information.

"This lack of moral fibre on your part goes to the root of the corrupt culture existing in parts of the force. The public would be justifiably outraged if you didn't receive an immediate custodial sentence."

The court heard that Jones retired 10 years ago and set up Hillside Investigations.

Lloyd retired as a Detective Constable at Bridgend police station in 2003 before being re-employed as a civilian casework director on the force's Investigative Support Unit (ISU).

Jones began to pay Lloyd to carry out detective work in his spare time.

The court heard the pair also had an "agreement" through which Lloyd would be paid to pass on information from police databases which Jones could use in his investigations.

Lloyd would use the police national computer, the Quick Address Search system and the Niche search system to perform address checks, searches for previous convictions, car registration checks, and other information searches for Jones.

The agreement lasted from September 2005 to January 2008, when the men were arrested after a lengthy investigation by anti-corruption police which involved bugging their cars.

The court heard how audio tapes of the men discussing the handover of information were collected, and how the police set up an undercover officer called 'Raj' to pose as a client wanting information.

At the same time, Lloyd had also been supplying police information to a man named Robert Morgan, a known criminal involved in drug dealing.

When Lloyd was arrested, he was found to be concealing more than £200,000 of Morgan's money in his attic.

Last month, Lloyd admitted conspiracy to commit wilful misconduct while in a public office with Jones.

He denied conspiracy to commit wilful misconduct in a public office and money laundering, namely the £200,000 cash, with Morgan but was convicted at Bristol Crown Court.

Sentencing Lloyd to four years imprisonment yesterday, Judge Darwall-Smith said: "David Lloyd, I take into account your reputation as a police officer but anyone listening to you give evidence to the jury could not help being amazed at your arrogance.

"You were entirely brazen in helping your friend Morgan and were prepared to conceal a quarter of a million pounds in cash for him.

"As a former police officer, you told the jury that tax evasion was not a crime in your opinion. It seems there was one law for Dai Lloyd and one for everybody else.

"It seems you made little secret of your relationship with Morgan. You clearly enjoyed Mr Morgan's high-life of fast cars, expensive jewellery and free holidays in Thailand, while you were receiving evidence that he was hands-on in drug operations.

"The number of arrests and searches that came to nothing because you had pre-warned the suspect through your friend Mr Morgan, does not bear thinking."

Christopher Barnett, who Jones used as a freelancer, would pretend to be account holders at financial institutions, the DVLA and utility companies to gain information on case subjects.

Barnett, of Vale of Glamorgan, who admitted one count of conspiracy to commit fraud by false representation with Jones and another count of fraud, was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment, suspended for two years.

'ABUSED TRUST'

After the verdict, Assistant Chief Constable Nick Croft of South Wales Police said: "These individuals held positions of trust and responsibility within South Wales Police. They abused these positions and let both the public and their colleagues down.

"The vast majority of our staff work very hard to keep south Wales safe and it is a shame that the actions of a few tarnish the professionalism of the organisation.

"Behaviour like this will not be tolerated, and I would like to reassure the public that police officers and staff employed by South Wales Police can expect to be dealt with robustly if they break the law or engage in other misconduct.

"These convictions have been successful as a direct result of a protracted and highly complex investigation which demonstrates the Force's commitment to tirelessly pursue officers who fail to live up to the high standards that we set.

"South Wales Police is committed to dealing with misconduct committed by both serving and retired officers. This force will not hesitate to pursue corruption by police officers and staff and if a similar situation arose again we would adopt the same strong line."

GROWING VEGETABLES

LLANTWIT Major Horticultural Society will meet on Wednesday, March 31 at 7.30pm in the Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major when the speaker will be David Chappell, an enthusiastic gardener from Newport.

He has featured on TV and reminisces on working with Percy Thrower. His talk will include practical examples of vegetables. Admission to the lecture and refreshments free.

Members and prospective members warmly welcomed.

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Vale Council may bring in the private sector at local leisure centres

WORKING in partnership with the private sector could be the future for leisure centres in the Vale of Glamorgan.

A report recommending that the council seeks a partnership arrangement with the private sector to manage and improve the Vale's leisure centres, was being considered by the Vale council's cabinet as The GEM went to press yesterday.

The council provides a range of leisure facilities, including leisure centres in Penarth, Barry, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major.

The recession has caused a drop in the number of visitors to the centres, despite considerable investment in facilities including new fitness suites at Barry and Penarth leisure centres. The opening of the international pool at Cardiff Bay, itself a privately managed facility, has also affected business.

Coun Anthony Ernest, cabinet member for tourism and leisure, commented:

"The council values its leisure centres extremely highly and we want to ensure that they continue to offer the best possible health and recreational opportunities to both residents and visitors. In assessing future options for the council's leisure provision, it has become clear that private sector management contractors may allow the council to reduce the cost of the service while offering improvements to the facilities.

"Importantly, the private sector can take advantage of financial benefits that are not available to the council, such as business rate relief and VAT benefits".

He added:"If cabinet does agree to procure a partner organisation to manage the council's leisure centres, it is expected that the employment of our leisure centre staff would be safe.

"We are reliably informed that the management of leisure services by specialist contractors can open up opportunities for staff career progression."

Ed Evans annual walk for brain tumour awareness

THE Ed Evans Foundation's sponsored annual walk will take place on Easter Monday, April 5 starting from Nash Point Car park, Marcross.

It is one of many sponsored walks talking place around the world raising awareness of the plight of brain tumour patients, their families and friends.

"This has been a very popular event the last two years and is a very enjoyable family day out. Let's hope for a fine sunny day," a spokeswoman said.

The foundation was set up following the death of local boy Ed Evans from a brain tumour, to raise money for Cancer Research UK and for Brain Tumour UK.

There are two walks, one of six miles suitable for families, and another of 12 miles for more serious walkers.

Details and sponsor forms are available on website www.edevansfoundation.co.uk or tel 01656 890217.

IN BRIEF

Mike's rail video show

THE Barry Island Railway Society's annual railway video presentation takes place at the Conservative Club, Station Street, Barry at 7.30pm today (Thursday, March 25).

Local video cameraman Mike Wilcock will feature in his 90-minute show: 'Newport Railfair May 1997, visit to Canton and Landore depots. Freightliner 1999-2009. The building of and my cab ride in Tornado. Steam special in the Valleys. Rugby World specials, Class 50s in Wales and much more!'

Admission is free and open to non-members.

For further details telephone 01446 774502.

Beetle drive

A BEETLE drive will be held at Llantonian Hall in aid of the Llantwit Major Twinning Association on April 10 at 7.30pm.

Tickets (which include a buffet) can be obtained on 01446 794729.

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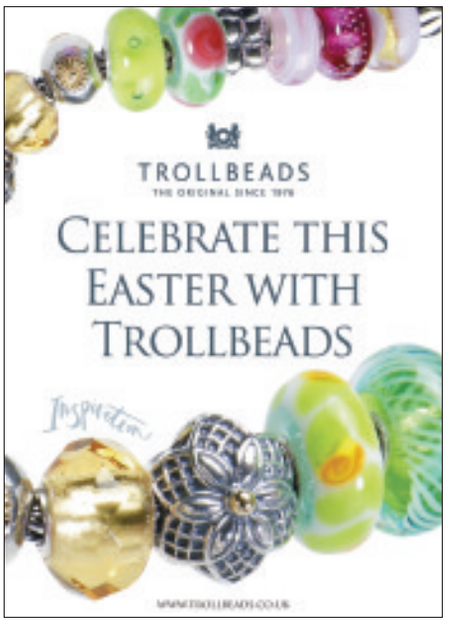

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DIGITAL SWITCHOVER

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

IT'S NOW TIME TO MAKE THE DIGITAL SWITCHOVER

WITH the digital switchover now well under way, there is little time to waste in order to make sure you are not left with a blank screen.

The first stage of the switchover occured on March 3, and the second, and final, stage takes place on March 31.

On this day, all remaining analogue channels will be switched off for good and the remainder of the digital services will be launched.

This means that all Freeview TVs and boxes will need to be retuned in order for you to continue watching television.

The positives of the switchover are that you need no longer worry about picking up certain channels, nor will you suffer from poor quality pictures.

Instead, the digital switchover will allow those who previously watched television via their aerial better picture quality and access to a number of new channels, previously unavailable.

Should you have any queries about the switchover, or require help, then you can contact 08456 505050 (English language) or 08458 484848 (Welsh language).

Happy viewing!

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TV Aerial and Satellite Services are owned and run by Mark Williams, who has been in the industry for more than 25 years and has worked for Sky, Granada, On Digital (the start of digital TV) and also the largest aerial installation company in the country.

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ONE VISION is a family-run business. Paul Williams, the founder, has more than 20 years' experience in the industry, including 15 years as a supplier of Sky satellite systems.

One Vision is now one of the top independent Sky digital retailers in Wales, and prides itself on the high quality of its products and service. A company spokesman explained: "We provide a fast, efficient service and only use equipment of the highest standards and workmanship.

"In addition, we offer 24-hour, seven-day cover and offer a 12-month warranty on all installations.

"We have supplied digital equipment to more than 125,000 customers, including Sony UK, the Millennium Stadium, Assura Chemist, local authority gyms and swimming pools.

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All systems are installed to British standard, BSEN60728-11 2005.

The spokesman added: "We specialize in the supply and installation of Sky Digital, Freeview Digital, TV aerial services and digital motorised systems. We offer a full, design, installation and maintenance service for IRS (www.onevisionltd.co.uk/integrated-reception-systems), MATV (www.onevisionltd.co.uk/matv-systems) and SMATV (www.onevisionltd.co.uk/smatv-systems) commercial systems."

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FLATS PLAN FOR PUB OPPOSED

Villagers are geared for battle over Sea Lawns

RESIDENTS of Ogmore-by-Sea are gearing up for another battle to stop the last pub in the village being demolished to make way for a block of flats.

A planning application has been lodged with the Vale Council seeking permission to build 17 flats on the site of the Sea Lawns Hotel by owner John Williams.

A previous application to create 24 flats on the site was refused on appeal after a two-day public inquiry in 2006 which was packed out by villagers.

The inspector turned the appeal down on the grounds that it would result in the loss of an amenity to the community and to tourists visiting the Heritage Coast.

He also said that the scale and design of the proposal was out of keeping with the surroundings.

Villagers are being backed in this fight by St Bride's Major Community Council, which has lodged seven objections to the plan.

These include fears about increased traffic along a narrow single lane track leading to the site; overloading of the sewerage system and the fact that the development is out of scale and character.

They also protest at the loss of the last pub in the village, even though it has been closed since 2005.

Speaking to The GEM, Coun Chris Howells, who chairs the planning committee, said he was backing the fight to retain the Sea Lawns.

"The loss of the last pub in Ogmore is unacceptable to a large majority of the people in the village. There are clear planning policy guidelines, which emphasise the importance of retaining such community facilities in order to sustain communities.

"There is no doubt that the loss of the village pub would be detrimental to village life and to social well-being in Ogmore-by- Sea.

"The Welsh Assembly has policies aimed at creating and retaining sustainable communities and the role of the pub is acknowledged."

Coun Howells stated that there were strong planning guidelines when the last pub in any community was under threat.

"This is the only hotel within the Glamorgan Heritage Coast and it could play a huge role in developing tourism and also catering for visitors who need accommodation or a meal.

"Apart from that, it was also a place where villagers staged functions, got together or just popped in for a pint."

Mr Howells said that Ogmore-by-Sea is one of the largest villages in the Vale but it has no community facilities.

"We have no village hall or community centre so there's nowhere at all people can get together. The Sea Lawns fulfilled that function."

He pointed out that there were plans to build a further 167 houses in Ogmore, which would increase the population and demand for facilities even more.

A public meeting to discuss the plan has already taken place and a campaign group called 'Save the Sea Lawns' has been re-activated to spearhead the fight.

Mr Williams has argued in the past that the business was not viable because of a drop in trade caused by the smoking ban, and also the need for expensive adaptations to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act.

The GEM was unable to contact him for a comment.

Residents have until March 31 to make their views on the planning application known to Vale planners.

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Publication	Jan-Dec 09	Previous July-Dec 08	Free/ Paid	Previous Jan-June 08
The GEM	**43,445**	**42,924**	**F**	**42,693**
Barry & District News	5,819	5,849	P	6,413
Penarth Times	5,834	5,721	P	6,182
South Wales Echo	36,928	41,550	P	44,624
Western Mail	30,133	33,693	P	37,152
Wales on Sunday	32,268	35,955	P	42,763
Glamorgan Gazette	18,149	20,174	P	21,731

GEM BULK DROPS: ***In addition to The GEM's household deliveries (31,073), we distribute over 12,000 extra copies from Penarth to Porthcawl at popular outlets.***

Why are GEM advertisers continuing to enjoy quality results?
Because we deliver a complimentary copy of The GEM through 31,073 Vale homes every week – packed with all the content that make a community newspaper great!
Source: www.abc.org.uk

FORD WORKERS SAY 'CROESO' TO £1.5 bn INVESTMENT NEWS

WORKERS at the Bridgend Ford engine plant have welcomed news that a new generation of environmentally-friendly engines are to be built at the plant and other Ford sites in the UK.

Ieuan Wyn Jones, deputy first minister, said that the five-year investment plan, which has been supported by the UK and Welsh governments, would secure jobs and give a boost for the green economy in Wales.

"It shows the confidence that Ford has in its workforce and management at Bridgend whose skills mean they are able to produce a world beating product.

"Wales will be producing a new generation of low carbon engines in a highly competitive global market.

"It means that Wales can and does compete with the best when it comes to manufacturing," he added.

Bridgend County Borough Council has welcomed the news which will see Ford invest £1.5 billion in its new engine and vehicle technologies.

Council leader Mel Nott said that it would secure highly-skilled jobs that were crucial to the local economy.

The investment will be in research and development for the Ford Commercial vehicles like Transit and Connect vans and also for low carbon emission diesel and petrol engines.

The investment includes the development of production facilities for the engines in Bridgend. The government has provided £360m in loan guarantees for the investment. into the area.

'No job losses for councillors'

I WAS interested in the letter from Karl Clarke in The GEM on March 18, in which he made reference to the 4 per cent pay rise the Vale councillors have accepted, and his plea that they should reject it.

If I remember correctly, it was about a year ago that the Vale Council leader, Coun Gordon Kemp, told one councillor who had rejected a similar rise, that he was undervaluing himself, so fat chance of our councillors doing the right thing this time.

The Welsh Audit Office has announced that there will be a £1.5 billion shortfall in revenue available to local authorities and that inevitably there will be job losses and a reduction in services.

There will be no job losses among our local councillors, unless the electorate wakes up and votes them out at the next election.

They have made it blatantly obvious that they are only interested in feathering their own nests and why not?

If their seniors in the House of Commons can do it, why shouldn't they?

Phil Sanders, Barry

Police issue an appeal over nightclub assault

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to an assault which occurred in Streets Nightclub, Porthcawl, between 1am-2am on Sunday, March 21.

The incident resulted in a man and woman both suffering facial injuries.

Police are appealing for anyone with information to contact Detective Constable Justin Lott at Porthcawl CID, on 101, or free and anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Handbag theft: youth charged

A 17-year-old youth from Bridgend has been charged with theft of a handbag and remanded in custody following an incident on Friday, March 19, at the Asda store in the town.

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is
Patricia Bevan-Morgan
(Tel 01656 880418)

MARCH 13 brought birthday greetings for Marg Simmons and Adrian Warner.

IT was pleasing to hear the church bells rung on Mothering Sunday when a team from Coity came to ring a special peal.

SOUTHERNDOWN

WI members welcomed a speaker from the probation service at their monthly meeting at the church hall, St Brides Major, who gave an insight into their work.

OGMORE Retired Residents Association held their AGM at the Watermill, when officers were elected.

A programme of forthcoming events and speakers will be issued shortly.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, April 15. New members welcome.

SPRING is beginning to show with all the crocuses and primroses coming into bloom – the daffodils are a little late this year.

Now is the time to see the spring flowers and shrubs at their best and the National Gardens Scheme for charity will be open at Slade, Southerndown on Easter Sunday, April 4.

THE awaited building of the extension to the church hall will commence next Friday, March 26 and will continue over the Easter holidays.

THE local produce market took place at the church hall on March 20 and was well attended.

It's a good meeting place for a cup of tea or coffee when making your purchases of local meat, preserves, vegetables, cakes and pastries, plants, books and cards. Well worth a visit.

The market is held every third Saturday in the month (10.30am-12.30pm).

PORTHKERRY MEETING

THERE will be a meeting today (March 25) at 5.30pm in Porthkerry Road Methodist Church to discuss plans to convert the building into an arts and Welsh-language centre in Barry.

The meeting will last about an hour, and all are welcome to attend and see the plans for a new community resource.

Contact Dorothy on 01446 744914 for more information.

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TV services will be off-air for part of 31 March
To get your channels back, you'll need to re-tune your Freeview TV or box.* You should be able to do this by 6am, but some of you will need to wait until late afternoon.
How do I re-tune?
Switch on your Freeview TV or box.
Press 'menu' on the remote control.
Select the 'set up' or 'installation' option.
Select the 'first time installation' option (sometimes called 'factory reset', 'full re-tune' or 'default settings').
Press 'OK' if your equipment asks if you want to delete all your channels. Don't worry, this is normal.
If you are prompted for a code, try 0000 or 1234.
Channels will be automatically installed. This may take a few minutes and your equipment may shut down and restart.
After re-tuning, you may have to reset your 'favourites' list. If you re-tune a digital TV recorder, you should re-set future recordings.
Keep this. It might be useful
These instructions are a guide only. For detailed re-tuning instructions of popular makes and models visit digitaluk.co.uk/retuning. Satellite and cable TV viewers will not be affected.
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Barry College - Celebrating half a century at the heart of the Vale.

Barry College is celebrating 50 years of its life and work at the heart of the community in the Vale. Each month in the Gem, Barry College will be looking back over the last 50 years – with memories and photographs from past students, staff and local residents. To look at photographs of College life from the last 50 years, log on to our Facebook page 'I ❤ BARRY'. To contribute memories, photographs or register as a past student or staff member, contact us by email: 50years@barry.ac.uk or tel: 01446 725015

The Glamorgan Suite restaurant at Barry College recently hosted a dinner to commemorate 50 years of engineering courses being offered at the College. Organised by Engineering Lecturer and long serving member of staff Phil Rees, forty members of lecturing staff, heads of department and technicians – past and present – attended to celebrate the last 50 years.

Current Head of Engineering, Richard Thomas, spoke on the evening and commented on the friendships and memories that have been formed and shared over this time. He said, "We have shared knowledge, interests, funny stories and jokes, happiness and sadness, holiday destinations and caravans! When added together, we have almost 700 years of service to the College, being committed to educating and training thousands of students over the last fifty years."

One attendee on the evening was Stuart Oakley, who left the College in 2009 after 36 years of working as a Technician and then Senior Technician within the Engineering department. Even before he started working at the College in 1973, Stuart has memories of College in its early days as he was one of the first students – starting at the age of 14 back in 1960, the College's first academic year. This makes his involvement with Barry College stretch over a 49 year time span. Stuart was a full-time Engineering student when he first started, before progressing to an apprenticeship.

During his career, Stuart recalls changes taking place around the College – extensions to buildings as student and staff numbers increased, the introduction of new courses and numerous room changes. During his working life, Stuart has seen the development of the Engineering department, including the opening of the Electrical and Plumbing sections, as well as whole new areas of innovative engineering over the years, such as Computer Aided Design. Stuart was involved in these and many other projects over the years, including the Barry College Amateur Radio Society, the Barry College Silver Jubilee celebrations and different sporting and social events.

Past and present staff from the Engineering department attended the '50 Years of Engineering' dinner

The Electronic Engineering department in 1984

One of the first groups of Engineering Apprentices, 1962. Pictured in top row are well known lecturers, Lionel Dimond, Ken Oaten and Dave Yandle.

Do you have a special memory or story about Barry College?
Do you have any photographs of Barry College taken over the years?

Whether a past student, member of staff, friend of the College or local resident – we all share in the College's heritage.

All those who contribute photographs or written memories will receive a thank you letter and commemorative gift.

Barry College will assume the consent of all those who appear in any photographs and written statements contributed relating to the College and its 50th celebrations, for use on the Barry College website, marketing materials and related media coverage. By contributing images/statements, you are agreeing to grant Barry College a royalty free licence to publish, edit and use such materials for the purposes stated above.

BRIDGEND LIFE COACH SCOOPS FIRST SPIRIT OF GIVING PRIZE

Inspiring Alison wins Vale businesswomen's award

BRIDGEND life coach and Vale Women's Business Network member, Allyson Gale has been named as the winner of the VWBN's first-ever Spirit of Giving award, at a ceremony in the Senedd hosted by the Minister for Business and Budget, Jane Hutt, AM for the Vale.

The VWBN launched its search in 2009 for the female entrepreneur, manager or businesswoman who had made the most significant contribution to her business and community.

The awards were launched in memory of Yvonne McDermott, a former VWBN member, who sadly died from breast cancer in 2008.

Allyson Gale of Brackla, originally trained as a biomedical scientist and worked for 26 years in NHS management.

In 1998, health problems, related to a pituitary tumour, caused her to retire very early but she is now self-employed as a life coach. She joined the VWBN in 2003.

For several years, Allyson has also worked as a volunteer, running a local support group for the Pituitary Foundation, a national charity for people with disorders of the pituitary gland.

In this role, she has been able to use her own experiences, together with her coaching skills, to help other patients and carers.

She has also run coaching-based workshops for the charity, at national level, and now writes a coaching column for their national magazine, Pituitary Life.

Allyson enjoys line-dancing and singing with a Ladies Barbershop Chorus (of which she is currently chair) and an *acappella* quartet.

"I'm humbled and honoured to win this award in memory of Yvonne, who I knew very well," said Allyson.

"Everyone knows it's a challenge to balance your professional life with something that you feel passionate about in your personal life.

"I believe wholeheartedly in volunteering because the qualities you bring to one aspect of your life are just as valid in the other,."

Jane Hutt AM for the Vale, is also patron of the VWBN and presented Allyson with her award.

She commented: "I was proud to help launch the Spirit of Giving Awards to recognise the distinctive contribution of women involved in the Vale Women's Business Network in their own businesses and in the community.

"This year, I would like to offer my congratulations to Allyson Gale whose generosity and tireless commitment to helping others is an inspiration to all of us."

Chris Lee, designer and property manager who helped to judge the entries, said:

"Just like Yvonne, whose memory the award honours, Allyson too is an inspirational woman who has shown generosity and giving in both her professional and personal life.

"The VWBN was founded on the principles of giving support to others and Allyson has shown to have this quality in abundance."

Llantwit Major businesswoman, Julie Robinson was also named as runner-up.

Julie, who was described by the judges as "inspiring", has been a committed fundraiser for Bridgend Samaritans for at least the last 10 years.

With a young family, she has also set up two businesses, one successfully establishing the first holiday property in Llantwit Major.

The award ceremony was part of an event which also played host to award-winning photographer and VWBN member, Anna Proctor's latest exhibition called 'Coast'.

Nervous Bella needs someone she can trust

The GEM is in partnership with the Dogs Trust to find good homes for animals in their care at the Bridgend rehoming centre. This week:Bella is a 2-year-old Boxer Cross and is a very nervous and under socialised dog. She is best suited being rehomed to live with another dog as she is more confident and settled around other dogs, a spokeswoman for the centre reports.

ABOVE: Bella

"She will need an experienced owner willing to continue her socialising and help build up her confidence. She can live with children over 14 years old and over.

"Anyone interested in adopting her will need to visit the centre a few times to allow her time to get to know and trust them."

Glamorgan GEM Websites
News, Sport,Letters, Features, What's On, Jobs, Motors....
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cowbridge-today.co.uk
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100 per cent record as local children ride the Stagecoach to success!

ABOVE: The Stagecoach pupils show off their certificates.

THE Stagecoach Theatre School is celebrating after 42 children, aged between seven and 17, recently took their LAMDA acting or speaking exams.

They have every reason to celebrate as they achieved a 100 per cent pass rate with the majority gaining distinction!

Stagecoach principal Helene Reynolds explained: "LAMDA was founded in 1861 and stands for the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. LAMDA has a global reputation for excellence, and the higher level exams can be used to obtain UCAS points for university entry.

"At Stagecoach, LAMDA examinations are offered to students who want to enter exams in either acting or speaking of verse and prose. For a term they receive extra tuition in preparation, alongside their regular drama, dance and singing sessions."

Helene and husband Rob, who together run five Stagecoach schools in Bridgend and The Vale, are extremely proud of their students' success.

"We have always achieved a 100 per cent pass rate, a testament to the hard work and enjoyment of the children who undertake these exams."

All 42 children received a certificate and examiners' written report in recognition of passing the exam. The youngest were seven-year-olds Isabella Carter, Morwenna Brown and Esme Bourne, all achieving a well-deserved distinction for the preliminary grade.

Elizabeth Parker (17) and Andrew McQueen (15) took the prestigious acting solo grade 7 silver medal. They were both awarded their silver medal with distinction.

Youth theatre's Aneurin wins top Olivier award

"YOU'VE done the borough proud!" That was the message from Borough Mayor Coun Jefferson Tildesley and Council Leader Coun Mel Nott to young local actor, Aneurin Barnard, after he won a best actor gong in the prestigious Laurence Olivier awards.

The mayor and the leader have sent a letter of congratulation to Aneurin (23) of Lewistown. The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama graduate picked up the award for 'best actor in a musical or entertainment category' for his role in the West End cult show Spring Awakening.

Fellow actor Iwan Rheon, 24, from Cardiff, who he stars alongside, picked up 'the best supporting performance in a musical award', while Spring Awakening, itself won 'best new musical' for its run at the Novello Theatre.

In their letter, Coun Nott and Mayor Tildesley write: "May we, on behalf of the county borough of Bridgend, offer our warmest and most sincere congratulations.

"You must be delighted that the hard work you have put in over these past years has culminated in such a spectacular way and has made such an impact in a very competitive arena.

"It is a very proud moment for Bridgend county borough to see one of our young people achieve success in this manner and we offer our heartfelt congratulations to you personally and to the rest of the cast and production team of Spring Awakening."

Aneurin, who was a member of the Bridgend Youth Theatre, will next appear in the forthcoming medieval action film *Ironclad,* with a host of leading actors, including James Purefoy, Derek Jacobi and Brian Cox.

ABOVE: Aneurin Barnard.

Top tipping from the Vale of Glamorgan pub!

THE Vale of Glamorgan public house in Cowbridge won The GEM's 'guess the winner of the Six Nations competition'.

On Saturday evening, France beat England 12 – 10 in Paris in a tense match to secure the Grand Slam.

Most of the local businesses had plumped for Ireland to take the title – but not so the demon tipster Alun John, who correctly went for France.

So if you want to know the winner of next year's Six Nations, you could do a lot worse than pop into the Vale of Glamorgan for some expert advice!

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Chippenham was the venue for Cowbridge under-7s and under-8s

A BEAUTIFUL March day saw the under-7s go to their first mini tournament in Chippenham.

The first game was against Bradford on Avon with Ioan Davies scoring the first try following a fine break by Dewi Lloyd. Bradford equalised seconds from full time, resulting in a 2-1 loss.

The next game against Wootton Bassett resulted in a 4-1 loss, the Cowbridge score from Aled Leitch finishing off a break from Ioan Davies.

The next game was against the eventual tournament winners, Salisbury, who were far too big and experienced for the Cowbridge boys, final score 5-0.

This meant a must-win game against Bath for any chance of advancing in the competition.

A good break from James Gilvear was finished up by a fine jinking run from Charlie Lock to touch down in the corner before Ben Farrell also touched down.

Bath hit back just after the interval before Dewi Lloyd went over in the corner after good link play by Elis Howell.

This result meant the boys had a final game for the best runner-up place which was against the home side, Chippenham. James Gilvear opened the scoring before the home side equalised.

Dewi Lloyd finished off some excellent team interplay before Chippenham again hit back due to a defensive lapse.

Harri Howkins sealed the win for Cowbridge.

Squad: Ioan Davies, Ben Farrell, James Gilvear, Matthew Gilvear, Owen Godsall, Robbie Hawkins, Elis Howell, Harri Howkins, Oliver Jarmain, Aled Leitch, Dewi Lloyd, Charlie Lock.

Under-9s

Cowbridge under-9s also travelled to Chippenham, where they came away tournament winners.

They started the day against Bath, Cowbridge running out comfortable winners 35-0.

During the morning session, the boys had to play four further pool games but with their strong squad of players they came through each encounter to progress to the semi-finals, where they faced a very well organised Bradford Upon Avon team.

The game turned out to be a close affair with Cowbridge scoring first to go 5-0. Bradford came straight back into the game but some fantastic defence by the Cowbridge team kept them out.

As the game was coming to the end, Cowbridge broke away from a ruck for Evan Thomas to go over for a try to finish the game.

Cowbridge 10 Bradford 0.

Cowbridge had set up a final with a very strong and organised Stow-on-the-Wold side. Cowbridge applied all the pressure in the early exchanges, with the Cowbridge defence ever present. As the game went on, the boys were beginning to get the upper hand in all areas of the game.

Half-time Cowbridge 0 Stow 0.

The second half started as the first, with Stow being stretched, and after some fine phases of play, Rhys Bradshaw danced his way over for the only try of the game.

Stow threw everything at Cowbridge, but could not break the stubborn defence and saw the game out as 5-0 winners.

The whole squad should all be very proud of themselves.

Squad: Ioan Williams, Iestyn Fenn, Ben Jones, Ben Batten, Luke Martin, Lewis Hawke, Jack Dixon, Will Jones, Harry, Evan Thomas, Barny Cryer, Rhys Bradshaw.

Under-10s St Joseph's away

The away team were a little short on numbers and as a result, the first game saw a complete change of personnel at half-time, to ensure all the boys got some game time.

Cowbridge always looked dangerous with ball in hand and Bevan Howells ran in the first try. This was quickly followed with further scores from Bevan and two from Rhydian Williams, to give a half-time lead of 26-0.

In the second half, St Joseph's hit back with a couple of well worked scores, and the home side reduced the arrears again to just seven points.

Dan Taylor drove over to increase the advantage, but St Joseph's once again hit back to guarantee a tense final few minutes. Elliot Bancroft then dotted down for the final try of the match.

Final score: St Joseph's 28 Cowbridge 38.

St Joseph's then agreed to play a further game of 2x10 minutes.

The first half proved to be a ding dong affair as each side took turns to trouble the scorer. James Guard, Max Cunnington and Dan Taylor, with two tries, secured a half-time lead of 24-21.

The first team then returned to the action and would prove to be a little too hot for their opponents to handle.

Bevan Howells, Elliot Bancroft and the deadly Rhydian Williams, with a further four scores, ensured a comfortable win for Cowbridge of 62-21.

Squad: Angus James, Bevan Howells, Cameron Roy, Dan Taylor, Dan Marshall, Dylan Lloyd-Doyle, Elliot Bancroft, Evan Williams, Ioan Lewis, Jac Roberts, Jake Griffiths, James Guard, Josh Lloyd-Doyle, Liam Murphy, Luke Beattie, Max Cunnington, Max Lucas, Oliver Reynolds, Rhydian Williams, Rhys Davies, Sam Corkill, Tom Coates, Tom Jose, William Davies.

Cowbridge under-11s also travelled to St. Joseph's and won comfortably by 65-5 (13 tries to 1).

The visitors were soon off the mark when outside-half Cai Evans burst through from the halfway line to score. Good communication between the Cowbridge scrum-half and wing resulted in a well taken try by Sean Davies.

Cowbridge were playing scintillating rugby and increased their lead further when James Waters produced a fine run before setting up a ruck which allowed centre Rhys Barnard to touch down. A charging run and offload by Matthew Keating resulted in the visitors scoring their fourth try when Joe Watts forced his way over the line.

The final Cowbridge try of the first half was scored by scrum-half Osian John.

The home side finally rallied, with good forward inter play resulting in the St Joseph's second row Malie Green crashing over the visitors' line for a well deserved try on the stroke of half-time.

The second half saw a number of changes being made by both sides but it came as no surprise when Michael Thomas added to the visitors' tally within minutes of the restart.

A break by Charlie Pegrum resulted in another try soon after and further tries by Dan Bunney, Charlie Pegrum and Rhys Barnard saw Cowbridge pass the 50-points mark.

Harrison Stevens and Ollie Rampling combined to set up Cowbridge's 11th try, scored by Toff Patel. Wing Sam John scored a well deserved and penultimate try to leave the visitors reeling.

The best move of the game was saved for last when a superb offload from Dan Bunney and excellent backing up from Seán Davies saw him score in the corner to leave the visitors with a convincing win.

Under-12s Pentyrch - Blues Cup quarter-final

Cowbridge under-12s progressed to the semi-finals of the Blues Cup with a very hard fought match against a very good Pentyrch side.

The first 10 minutes of the match were very keenly contested until Frazz McGhan burst through a packed Pentyrch defence from 10 yards out to crash over the line for an early lead.

Pentyrch then hit back with two tries which would have been three but for Tom Lucas tracking back 50 metres before hauling down Pentyrch's flying winger only three yards from the try line. Pentyrch took the score at 10-5 into the half-time interval.

After the break, the Cowbridge backs pushed the ball along the line to give Tom Trotman the chance to furiously challenge his opponents and run the ball in from the halfway line – Jonny Harvey converted to get Cowbridge back into the game at 12-10.

The Cowbridge pack of George Thomas, Tom Evans and Josh Brace were permanently in the middle of the rucks fighting for the ball.

Another break saw Tom Lucas snipe down the blindside for a score.

Gabe Newham then ran in an excellent try and Cowbridge were now in the driving seat. Trotman ran in two more long distance tries to put Cowbridge into a comfortable lead.

Pentyrch secured a final try during the last play of the game to make the final score 32-15 to Cowbridge.

Rian Thomas and Rob David came on as subs during the second half and contributed to an excellent team performance that takes the boys into the last four of the tournament.

A big thanks to Pentyrch RFC for their hospitality and for staging a terrific match.

Squad: Cai Thomas Jenkins, Owain Thomas Jenkins, Josh Brace, George Thomas, Jac Davies, Tom Whitehouse, Luke John, Tom Evans, Ben Jones, Frazz McGhan, Rob David, Hywel Williams, Ashford Thomas, Jonny Harvey, Gabriel Newham, Rian Thomas, Harvey Stockford, Matt Harper, Tom Lucas and Tom Trotman.

ML

SPRING INTO EASTER at
High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street

FOOD FOR THOUGHT NOMINATED FOR AWARD

ABOVE: Nathan Keeble and Anna Hardwick of High Street's Food for Thought are celebrating being nominated as 'Deli of the Year'.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT has been nominated by Olive's Et Al for 'Deli of the Year' – a boost for the popular High Street shop.

For loyal customers who vote for Food for Thought, there's a chance of winning a holiday in Spain.

Nathan Keeble said: "If people would like to vote for us they can go on-line to *delioftheyear.co.uk* or call in to us for a voting slip."

The staff have one final message: "Don't forget to order your hot cross buns this Easter!"

Forks Café is inspired by 'Twilight'!

FORKS CAFE opened in High Street, next to the former HyperValue, only five weeks ago and is proving to be a popular venue for shoppers.

Alexis Cunningham, the owner of Forks, is an avid Twilight fan, hence the name of the shop, named after the town where the movie *Twilight* is set.

Alexis commented: "The breakfast called 'Breaking Dawn' is a great favourite and the service providing a take out or dine in service is a definite success.

Shopowners and staff in the street can phone in their lunch orders in advance."

Alexis said their coffee is popular, too. They have gone for a top name, SegaFredo, a good quality Italian brand.

The music played in Forks gives the café a lovely atmosphere with many hits from the 50s and 60s playing gently in the background.

Call into Forks for that important break while you browse the many quality shops of High Street.

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SPRING INTO EASTER at
High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street

HIGH STREET TRADERS ARE PREPARING FOR THE ANNUAL EASTER BONNET PARADE

HIGH STREET Easter Bonnet Parade will be held on Saturday, April 3 at 11am – followed by a rather special party!

The chairman of High Street traders, Mr Anthony Hopkins, told The GEM: "First we'll have the bonnet parade, then there's going to be a Mad Hatter's tea party in Cubana's cafe bar.

"Last year, we had more than 80 entries and that set us a target to beat! So come on mums, dads, aunties and uncles, brush up on your hat-making skills and let's see if we can make this year's Easter Bonnet Parade the best ever!

"Girls and boys have the option of Easter bonnets or to dress up as Mad Hatters.

"Entry details can be found in shop windows throughout High Street.

"Please be outside the old Hype Value site at 10.45am for judging – there are lots of prizes to be won."

LEFT: Winners of the High Street Traders children's competitions.

3rd Courtney Alford, St Baruc
FIND THE LEEK
1st Lauren Merchant, Bryn Hafren
2nd Keri Latham, High Street
3rd Thomas and Ryan, Gladstone.
COLOURING COMPETITION
1st Georgia Dyball, Palmerston
2nd Harper Chamberlain, Romilly
3rd Bradley James, Palmerston

COLOURING COMPETITION:

St David's Day may have passed, but last week saw a very Welsh day in Barry's High Street.

Lucky winners of High Street's colouring, word search and window competitions were presented with a selection of prizes, ranging from official Welsh rugby shirts to signed team photos and Welsh rugby key rings.

Mr Hopkins said: "We were amazed at the number of high quality entries to our colouring competition and, as always, it was very hard to choose the winners!

"We are hoping to display all of the entries in shop windows throughout High Street, Island Road and Market Street for everyone to see.

"Some are already on display on the side window of the former Jaks hair salon next to Cubana's."

The winners of the St David's Day competitions were:

WORD SEARCH:
1st Lucas Edwards, Romilly
2nd Mia Hughes

You can now read all about the various events in High Street and the surrounding areas in The GEM's online edition: ***www.barry-today.co.uk***

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PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB NEWS

Office upgrade by Microsoft

MICROSOFT Office users will soon be encouraged by Microsoft to upgrade to the 2010 edition. (The current version is Office 2007).

For people like me (still happily using the 2003 version) Ceri gave us a glimpse of what we are missing by showing us the major improvements incorporated into the 2007 edition.

It will be useful when we have to decide whether to stick with 2003; pick up a cheap offer for 2007 or go the whole hog to 2010 when we know what it is all about. Accordingly, there was much interest in the clear and thorough tour that Ceri gave.

The feature most affecting the Luddites using 2003 is that there are new file types. It is also the feature that is easiest to come to terms with.

The familiar 'doc' file extension became 'docx' for straightforward documents. This allowed the software to recognise the use of XML (Extensible Markup Language). This is introduced to make information more usable over the Internet. It also means that 2003 needs help to open the files.

2003 users can visit the Microsoft website and download a free compatibility package to enable them to open the later 'docx' files. (2010 users have the facility to save their documents in an earlier format if they so wish.)

The same download enables access to the other new types indicated by 'docm' if the document contains macros or 'dotx' and 'dotm' similarly if they are templates without or with macros. A Macro is just a set of internal instructions contained in a document.

There are also improvements in the way the computer presents itself to the user.

The most noticeable of these is the 'Ribbon'. Ceri explained that users of the earlier versions needed to be aware of the existence of the variety of Tool Bars that were available for special parcels of work. For instance, there are controls to help format and build a table within a document, but it requires knowledge of how to open a special toolbar for Tables. Now there is the word 'Tables' on the Ribbon where one click will open a Table tool bar.

This principle is applied to many more of the previously hard-to-find features that many people had never become aware of.

Even better, once you have created a table, if you click inside it at any time the table Tool Bar automatically appears and remains until you click outside the table and it goes away. Now THAT is an improvement!

For more information, telephone 029 2070 8439.

HOWARD DESMOND (Chairman)

Barrivale Bridge Club news

THE latest results from Barrivale:

March 16: 1st, Irene Thomas and Jane Brook – 66.67 per cent; 2nd, Noelle Bond and Mick Green – 60.32 per cent; 3rd, Huw Thomas and Celia Thomas – 56.35 per cent.

Irene and Jane also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information telephone 01446 733425.

The hills were alive to the sound of banter

VALE of Glamorgan Ramblers met recently at Pontyclun car park, and more importantly, we find out after much banter, set off in convoy up the Rhondda Valley, marvelling at how beautiful the hills looked as they made their way to the Forestry Commission car park at the top of Mynydd Beili Glas.

This was where the walk was starting from. The walk in the Rhigos area was mainly on well identified forestry tracks.

Due to the work that is taking place in felling the trees, a lot of the hillside was bare, which meant that we could appreciate the wonderful uninterrupted views across the valley.

We were lucky with the weather, Corn Du, Pen y Fan and Cribyn in the distance with the sun hitting them, made them look quite majestic, along with the view of the Black Mountains in the far distance, as well as Fan Hir.

There is very little sign of the past in the hills, the once busy industrial workings have given way to leisure activities such as walking, cycling and motor scrambling; although as we drove through the Rhondda Valley, there is still evidence in the buildings of how busy the communities were, and the importance of the area to our past.

It's also quite sad to see some of the buildings falling into disrepair, as they too played an important part in these communities.

The walk next Sunday is in the Blaenau Gwent Area, meeting at Cowbridge Town Hall car park at 9am taking in the Chartists' Cave on Mynydd Llangynidr. This will be combined with a map reading exercise.

With the light nights of BST comes the Wednesday evening walks. The first walk still start on April 14, meeting at 7pm from Cowbridge Town Hall car park for a 3-5 mile easy walk in the local area.

Please visit vale-ofglamorganramblers.co.uk for further information

Giant bluebells? No, dog poo bags!

NO, this is not a picture (right) of giant bluebells, but discarded dog poo bags littering woods near Dinas Powys.

It was taken by GEM reader Roy Gee. "Another scar on the landscape; does this constitute dog fouling, fly tipping , or just sheer laziness with a don't care attitude," he asks.

"If we are to accept this disgusting habit, could I suggest the Vale Council change the colour of the free dog poo bags to green?

"It would be more environmentally friendly, blending into the foliage."

PACT meetings

CASTLELAND PACT, Civic Offices, Holton Road, March 29 at 7pm.
ILLTYD PACT, Mount Sorrel Hotel, March 30 at 7pm.
BARUC PACT, St Francis Millennium Centre, Park
WENVOE PACT, Wenvoe Community Hall, March 29 at 7pm.
RHOOSE PACT, Celtic Way Community Centre, March 30 at 7pm.
YSTRADOWEN Coffee and Chat, White Lion Public House, April 6 at 11.30am.
ST BRIDES MAJOR PACT, St Brides Church Hall, April 7 at 6pm.
DINAS POWYS PACT, Bethesda Hall, April 12 at 7pm.
ST AUGUSTINES PACT, Windsor Public House, April 13 at 7pm.
CORNERSWELL PACT, Cogan Leisure Centre, April 13 at 7pm.
PLYMOUTH PACT, Paget Rooms, April 14 at 7pm.

Walking festival a first in Vale

VALEWAYS has announced the launch of the first, Vale-wide walking festival on May 14-16.

Join the walks across fertile, rolling lowland countryside, along towering cliffs, beaches, through rural villages and historic market towns ranging from full day walks to family walks.

Twenty guided walks will take place across the Friday, Saturday and Sunday throughout the Vale. They are being delivered between Valeways, Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers, Penarth & District Ramblers, Dyffryn Gardens, Cosmeston Lakes and Porthkerry Country Park.

The festival represents an opportunity for residents to discover new parts of the Vale and for visitors from across the UK and beyond to experience the area.

The walking festival is being co-ordinated by Valeways, with financial support from the Vale Council.

Visit www.vale-ofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk for the full programme and online booking facility.

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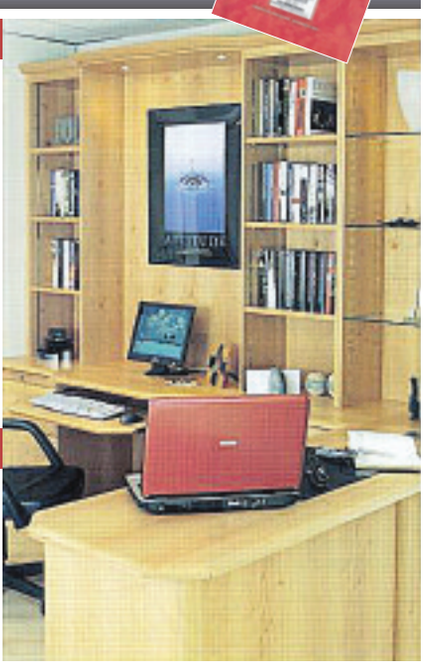

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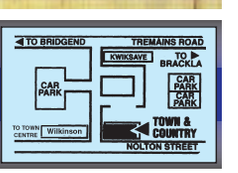

Stanwell pupils express their views on the community

Letters to the editor

• These three letters were penned by students at Stanwell School, Penarth, who clearly have strong views on problems in the community!

Shocked by an aggressive taxi driver

I WAS wondering if any of your readers have noticed how taxi drivers seem to think that they're more important than any other driver and that they have an excuse for not following the Highway Code.

On Saturday evening, I was coming home from a day out in Cardiff and a taxi pulled out of a parking space and we got stuck behind it, while it was waiting to pick up some people.

He stopped there for about five minutes and when he finally started driving again, he accelerated past a pelican crossing, where some young children were crossing with their parents.

I was very shocked by the aggression in his driving and the fact that he had no care for anyone else who was driving around him.

My other incident with a taxi driver was when we were driving along Penarth Road and the driver was getting impatient with other drivers in front, including myself, who were following the speed limits.

He finally got so impatient that he overtook three cars.

When he went past me, I saw that he was on his mobile phone.

I found this a disgrace. How can a licensed driver who has passengers in the back of his car, decide to go on his mobile phone while overtaking three cars?

James L, Penarth

Disgust over the potholes

I AM writing to express my disgust at the lack of maintenance of the Vale's roads.

The potholes are terrible, and especially bad around the town centre. If a member of the public goes out on their bike and hits one of these potholes, there could be a serious accident. This could be made even worse if a car was travelling towards the cyclist and then the bike hit a pothole', the cyclist could be seriously injured.

I hope this matter receives the utmost urgent attention of the Vale Council, due to the seriousness and potential to cause harm to the public and road users in the Vale.

Steven Warrington, Penarth

The worst train service of all!

DO any of your readers catch the Vale trains? I do. I catch the train from Eastbrook to Cogan and vice versa.

I was on my way to Eastbrook and I checked the service board and my train was expected in two minutes, lucky! I was standing with friends so I wasn't by myself. Five minutes had gone and the train still had not appeared. Ten minutes later, the train still wasn't there. It really annoyed me that I had to wait 10 minutes for my train to arrive when it said it was due in two minutes.

If it wasn't expected on time, why lie and not give us the given time? To improve the problem, the time board should give the right time and tell you if the train is delayed.

It is a fact that Britain has the worst train service and countries like India have a better train provision.

Saffron Collins-Ton, Dinas Powys

Tube train driver recalls Moorgate

IT was very interesting to read the Barry's Men's Forum column in The GEM on March 11.

I was a tube train driver at the time of the Moorgate tube train disaster and I and many of my colleagues felt that relevant information was withheld from the Government inquiry and the coroner's inquest.

I intend to address this matter later this year with the publication of *Understanding Moorgate*, in which I dispel the recorded fact that the train that crashed was the one that had been prepared, brought into service and worked all morning by the driver who was found dead in the wreckage of his crushed driving cab.

Scrutiny of the evidence strongly suggests that the dead driver and his guard had changed trains with another crew at Old Street station the trip before the crash – and that the dead driver had only driven this change-over train once to Moorgate, whereupon it crashed.

Anthony Bright,

Red Kite was spotted, twice

WITH reference to the letter from Martin Tomlinson about the Red Kite seen on March 13, we also saw a Red Kite flying south-west from the direction of Cowbridge at 2pm-2.30pm on that day.

We saw one flying over Llanmaes, in the same direction, a few weeks previously.

Ann Smith, Llanmaes

I saw it, too?

DID I see the same Red Kite flying over the main road in Ystradowen on Friday morning?

Mrs VP Robins, Trerhyngyll

WE welcome your views and news. Please email the Editorial Department at: *ggem@internet-today.co.uk*

Warning, no fishing without a licence!

IT is that time of year again where new environmental course river rod licenses are required to be renewed or purchased ready for April 1.

Last year, some 4,100 people were caught and fined up to £2,500 each for simply defying the law and failing to purchase a rod license.

This year, an adult licence costs £26; junior under -16 £8, minor under-12 is free, but they have to be accompanied by someone over-16 with a rod licence.

Time after time, anglers contact the Environmental Agency to report people fishing on privately owned ponds and lakes or rivers as they know these people do not have a licence and are trepassing.

Environmental officers have the power of arrest; will confiscate their rods and other equipment and can also take them to court.

An environmental rod licence is not a pass that entitles people to fish private lakes or ponds or rivers, they have to become members and pay the fees as do we.

So the advice I would give to all is: Get a rod licence, join a club, or go to day ticket waters (there are plenty around the Vale).

Most tackle shops have application forms to join fishing clubs or places where you can fish for the day at a cost but you still need a rod licence.

R Phillips, Barry

The Red Kite was magnificent

IN response to Martin Tomlinson's letter in The GEM on March 18 – yes, we did see a Red Kite.

It was mid-morning on Monday, March 5, My partner and I were driving from Cowbridge, going in the direction of Pontyclun. We had just gone through Aberthin and as we came round the bend, he was standing in the road, feeding on a dead magpie.

I had to slow almost to a halt as he obviously didn't want to leave his lunch.

We have never been as close to a Red Kite. He surveyed us with some annoyance and lazily lifted himself into the air – a truly magnificent sight.

Let's hope he wasn't just passing through.

Annie Grujic, St Hilary

LLANTWIT MAJOR'S SPRING UPDATE . . .

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

WIN ONE OF FOUR £25 SHOPPING VOUCHERS!

The Glamorgan GEM is offering four lucky readers the chance to win a £25 shopping voucher – to spend at any of the businesses advertising in this feature.

All you have to do to enter this competition is answer this question:

What historical theme does Llantwit Major adopt for its biennial summer fair?

(A) Elizabethan (B) Victorian

(C) Edwardian.

Send your name, address and telephone number to us, on a postcard marked 'Llantwit Competition', no later than Friday, April 9.

No correspondence will be entered into and judge's decision is final. Good luck!

Spring sunshine sees Llantwit at its very best

SPRING has finally sprung after a long and distinctly hard winter.

The new lambs in the fields and a few brave daffodils starting to blossom herald the beginnings of this annual rebirth.

Like our pagan forebears, we know that the sun has passed its equinox and is now returning to brighten up our lives and bring us some warmth.

In Llantwit Major, the spring sunshine shows the historic town at its best, with its many ancient stone buildings throwing off the greyness of winter and glowing in the heat of the sun.

The town has an enviable heritage with many fine old buildings including the church and the remains of St Illtud's monastery and college.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23)

Young's Butchers

ALAN YOUNG, a Llantwit man, learned his trade originally under the guidance of David Griffiths.

Alan began at the age of 12 and is now 69 years of age. The business – situated in the old part of Llantwit, beside St Illtud's Church – is a well established butchers, which has stood the test of time. While other businesses have come and gone, Young's Butchers is still going strong.

Alan took on a new manager two years ago – Marc Owen, who now feels he is ready to move the business forward, as Alan steps back to become a silent owner.

Mind you, Alan would probably laugh if it was said –"he's not usually silent – this will be a first!"

Marc is a very capable young man, who recently became a proud dad to Chloie.

Marc intends to make a number of changes. First being to increase the opening hours. From March 28, the butchers will be open all day, every day except Sunday and Monday.

Specialising in Welsh Black Beef, Welsh Lamb, Woodland Pork, local fresh free range poultry, home-made faggots and traditional meaty sausages.

Marc is keen to make an impression managing the butchers Tuesday to Friday, while Alan will keep his hand in each Saturday.

FILCO Supermarkets

Filco Supermarkets, 19 Boverton Road, Llantwit Major CF61 1XZ

Filco - local supermarkets

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Open 8am-8pm Monday-Saturday and 10am-4pm on Sundays. Telephone:01446 796188.

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A wealth of experience and truly professional care is taken with the customers' requirements which means you can be confident of a tip-top result.

A helpful and friendly service continues to draw customers from far and wide.

A warm welcome to customers old and new, at 6 The Precinct, Llantwit Major, CF61 1XA; telephone 01446 796623.

COACH TRIP TICKETS AVAILABLE

Depart Llantwit Major 8am Saturday, 8th May, coffee and cake stop at the George Hotel, Brecon, on to Devil's Bridge for the Vale of Rheidol Steam Railway *(1 hour rail journey)*. Lunch at the Aberystwyth Park Lodge Hotel with time for sightseeing after lunch. Afternoon tea and Welsh cakes at Rhosmaen. Arrive back in Llantwit Major at 8.00pm.

£40 per head *(all inclusive)*

Anyone interested call Eileen on

01446 794729 or **07970 016724**

Bonny Tiler

BONNY TILER is a family-run business based in Llantwit Major and covering the Vale and surrounding areas.

Our business specialises in full bathroom and wet room installations, wall and floor tiling and under floor heating.

Our wet rooms are an elegant and desirable solution for virtually any bathroom with a luxurious contemporary feel and efficient use of space.

Choose from ceramic, natural stone, porcelain or mosaics. We have a range of brochures and can collect and deliver if necessary.

Free quotations, design and advice.

Supply and fit or fit only.

References provided, quality assured.

Tel. 01446 796582 or 07854 168459.

New Craft & Gift Venture

for Llantwit Major

Starting on 10th April

there will be a

Monthly Craft and Gift Fair

held in the Llantonian Hall

The organisers say that they have been thinking for a while that Llantwit should host a regular event for crafters, makers and alternative retailers.

If Cowbridge can do it, so can we! There will be a variety of stalls and some will change from month to month. Already. there are card and paper crafters, jewellery makers and sellers, candlers and knitters, wood turners and photographers represented, as well as unusual felt bunting and homemade produce. There will be fair trade and home made light refreshments available. It is certainly worth a visit, if only for a browse, a coffee or tea and some lovely cake, to support this opportunity for showcasing local creativity.

Enquiries, contact Peta Shields

T: 01656 890353 E: peta@peartreecott.co.uk

Sunkissed

LOOK good and feel good at Sunkissed this summer.

Clean Start is the new range of skin care for teenagers from Dermalogica. These products have been specifically designed for the 12 to 19 year age group, so we can now educate our children on the benefits of a good skin regime.

As ever at Sunkissed we have exciting monthly offers of various products and treatments, so whether it's a Spray Tan, Pedicure or Acrylic Nails, we can help you get ready to enjoy the long summer ahead!

Lorianne has recently joined our team and looks forward to welcoming you.

Get ready for some me time... Sunkissed

Lose yourself in our relaxing and luxurious treatments

East St., Llantwit Major CF61 1XY

Tel: 01446 796883

E-Mail: info@sunkissedbeautyandtanning.co.uk

www.sunkissedllantwit@hotmail.co.uk

Vale Shoe Repair & Trophy Centre

Our full range of facilities include:

- Shoe Repair
- Sign Service
- Key Cutting
- Engraving

Sales of Zippo Lighters, Watches, Watch Straps and Watch Batteries (fitted)

☎ 01446 794725

Unit 6 The Precint, LLANTWIT MAJOR

Bonny Tiler

Wetroom Specialists

- An ideal shower solution for your home
- Modern, stylish and spacious
- Full design and installation
- Supply & fit or fit only

Bathrooms

Underfloor Heating

Professional, reliable & friendly service.

01446 796582

07854 168459

PC of Mind

PCofMIND offers a wide range of computer services for domestic and business clients. For new computers, laptops, repairs, upgrades, networking, internet problems, come and see us. We can help.

We always strive to provide the best possible customer service, with good, understandable advice. Home or office visits are available, usually within a day of your call.

If you buy a new PC or laptop, data transfer, delivery and set up in your home or office is included in the price.

So whatever you need for your computer, try PCofMind, Llantwit Major 01446 796171; Pencoed 01656 860773.

LLANTWIT MAJOR'S SPRING UPDATE . . .

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Local businesses get ready for their visitors over Easter period

The Beach Cafe

Serves Breakfast 9 -11.45
Hot food served all day
Traditional Sunday Lunches
Take-away food
Confectionary - Ice Creams
Souvenirs - Beach Toys

Bookings taken for Functions and Parties

Tel. 01446 792665

The Beach (Colhugh Street)
Llantwit Major,
South Glam. CF61 1RF

Open 364 DAYS Except Christmas Day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

This heritage may be promoted more vigorously in future as plans take shape to explore the possible connections that the town has to one of the greatest figures in British history – King Arthur!

If this can be properly developed, there is huge potential for Llantwit to become a centre for mass tourism of the sort that already exists in other Arthurian centres like Glastonbury and Tintagel.

All the shops and businesses might benefit. Existing restaurants, cafés and pubs could see an upsurge in visitors seeking refreshments while there is potential for the shops to promote books, souvenirs and crafts.

Llantwit traders are already in talks with the Vale Council's new town centre manager Peter Lewis to promote the town in a variety of ways.

It is fair to say that, at the moment, possible commercial developments in Llantwit are on hold while everyone awaits news of the Metrix development.

Once this gets the final go ahead and work gets under way, there is no doubt that the area will benefit immensely from a scheme that will pump billions into the local economy and create hundreds of jobs.

There will also be new homes bringing in more people to support the shops and businesses of the area.

In the meantime, local businesses are preparing for the more immediate rush of visitors over the Easter holiday.

NICKLEBY'S Bookstore

General, Bargain and Second hand books.

Book searches welcome

Non-stock books ordered promptly!

Browsing is compulsory

6 Poundfield Precinct LLANTWIT MAJOR

01446 795166

Glaze *Illtud's 216 support*

Glaze Prostate Charity Wales

Enjoy our original Austrian Apple Strudel and help raise funds for cancer research in Wales!

Andrew Thomas (Consultant Surgeon, Bridgend) joins 15 Welsh captains in an attempt to climb to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro (19,340ft/5,985m) to raise funds for cancer research in Wales. In support of his mission we will donate £1.00 for every portion of Apple Strudel sold between March 23rd and September 26th 2010.

ace feet in motion — Footwear and Footcare Centre

Nail cutting service £10

Tel. 01446 790199

Opening offer: 10% off footwear with this advert.

Newport House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major — hpc

ACE - Feet in Motion is run by Podiatrists Amy Williams and Andrew James. Their new store in Llantwit Major is offering an extensive range of men's and women's comfort footwear from leading brands such as Hotter, Scholl, Cosyfeet and Padders as well as a full range of foot health services and products.

Our podiatry assistant Lisa Phillips is providing a nail cutting service by appointment for £10.

To make an appointment for nail care or to see our HPC registered Podiatrist call us on 01446 790199.

Please take advantage of this opening offer of 10% off footwear when you present this advert.

Browsing is Compulsory...

The Chocolate Box

3 East Street, **LLANTWIT MAJOR**

Continental & British Chocolates Greeting Cards, Gifts & Novelties

Exclusive, hand-made, Belgian chocolates plus diabetic chocolates, biscuits and preserves too!

- **Large range of Welsh gifts**
- **NEW Welsh language cards**
- **Celtic Jewellery plus agent for 'Carrie Elsbeth'**

Maureen Whiskerd has been tantalising tastebuds since 1997...

Tel: 01446 792196

howellinsurance

howellinsurance

- Howell Insurance Services are independent insurance and mortgage brokers.
- We offer a complete range of insurance and mortgage services for all your commercial and domestic requirements.
- Based in Llantwit Major for over 40 years, it is our sole purpose to find an insurance or mortgage package that suits your needs.

Please feel free to contact us for a no obligation quote.

Howell Insurance Services Ltd
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Vale of Glam, CF61 1RE
Tel: 01446 792505 Fax: 01446 795452
Email: martin@howellinsuranceservices.co.uk
www.howellinsuranceservices.co.uk

Howell Insurance Services Ltd are authorised by the FSA

Take a closer look - step inside...
www.westhouse-hotel.co.uk

West House Country Hotel

DATING back to the 16th century, this country hotel rests within the old part of the historic town of Llantwit Major.

The hotel prides itself in supporting the local community and local farmers as much as possible.

Our team of chefs, including our latest member from Le Caprice in London, offer a high standard of quality and presentation of food.

The hotel continues to be popular for all types of functions and parties; from weddings to birthdays to business meetings.

Sunday Lunches continue to be popular, not only with locals but many from far away.

The Christopher family extend their warm welcome.

Planning some quality time?
01446 792406

Cheers...
Celebrating our 6th year!

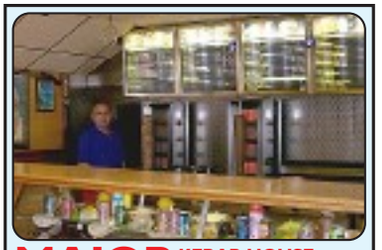
Quest have recently celebrated their 6th anniversary and would like to thank all their existing clients for their continued support; while offering a warm welcome to new clients.

OPENING HOURS:

Monday	9.00am - 3.00pm
Tuesday	9.00am - 8.00pm
Wednesday	9.00am - 5.00pm
Thursday	9.00am - 8.00pm
Friday	9.00am - 5.00pm
Saturday	8.30am - 2.30pm

Open Good Friday
Wishing everyone a happy Easter!
Gift vouchers always available....

EAST STREET • LLANTWIT MAJOR — **QUEST HAIR** — Tel. 01446 793563



MAJOR KEBAB HOUSE
East Street, Llantwit Major

ORIGINALLY, Ali ran his kebab business from his take-away van, located at what has now transformed into Llantwit Major's train/bus station.

Ten years ago, the family business expanded and relocated to East Street. Joined by sons Huseyin, Mehmet and two other staff members, their extensive range is in great demand.

Chicken/lamb kebabs, burgers, fried chicken, meal deals and a very popular pizza selection.

Pick-up orders welcome.

Open 7 days ☎ 01446 794922

Buy 2x9" Pizzas get a Garlic Bread FREE	Buy 2x12" Pizzas get a pot of coleslaw and 1 Chips FREE

Llantwit Major Town Council

Cyngor Tref y Llanilltud Fawr

Cllr Russell Downe Town Mayor, and Town Councillors of **Llantwit Major Town Council** *extend a warm welcome to all townsfolk and visitors this springtime.*

LLANTWIT MAJOR'S SPRING UPDATE . . .

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Ancient town that boasts of rich history and a warm welcome

With its medieval town hall (see far right) historical attractions, and the hospitality offered by local public houses, Llantwit has become a popular location for tourists visiting south Wales.

The Flower Shop

Spring has finally come at last. The Easter bunny is not far away. Come and visit Sarah & Wendy they have everything from hats to decorations... Something for Mum & Dad to do! To save the waistline, we have a wide selection of plants and planted containers or a beautiful bouquet.

Happy Easter to everyone!

01446 792264

2 Barons Close House,
East Street, Llantwit Major
Delivery service available

Travel in style!

FOR your wedding, why not enjoy the luxury of a beautiful Rolls Royce Silver Spur from Andy Cars, to complement and enhance that extra special day?

Be guided to your destination by the Spirit of Ecstacy – the unmistakable symbol of the world's most elegant and refined motor car?

Discount is available, if used in conjunction with our taxi service, or with our silver Mercedes E270 saloon.

Why settle for anything else when the most romantic and luxurious option is a phone call away?

Telephone 01446 795511 or 01446 796777.

ANDY CARS

PRIVATE HIRE TAXIS

Any Distance • Airports • Contracts • 4-8 Seats

01446 795511 **01446 796777**

White Rolls-Royce Silver Spur now available

Discount prices negotiable when used in conjunction with our taxi service

Email: andrew.brown01@btconnect.com

Coldham & Co

Incorporated Financial Accountants

Gerry (the boss) and Ann (the worker) have been in Llantwit now for just over 12 months. We would like to thank all our existing clients for their continued support.

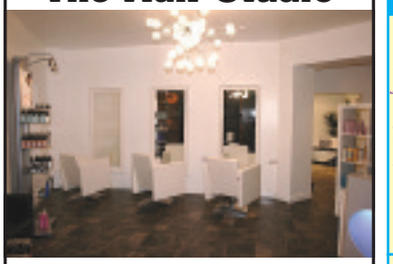
We offer an accountancy service tailored to your individual needs which includes bookkeeping, VAT, Accounts, Payroll, Tax Return preparation and filing on line.

Evening appointments can be made if required or visits to your workplace - all to suit you.

We are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, ready and waiting to offer you a service that is something different, so give us a call on 01446 793867

Office: Unit 3, Commercial House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major CF61 1RB

The Hair Studio



HERE at Hair Studio we understand that each of our clients is an individual, and we are passionate about delivering results that are tailored just for you.

Since moving to our new premises we continue to go from strength to strength and our expanding team has been selected to meet all of our clients' needs, from the classic to the contemporary.

Our popular 'Diamond Group Discount' for the over 60s every Tuesday.

Late night opening on Thursdays.

Students discount every Saturday.

For a free consultation or to book an appointment, please call . . . ***The Hair Studio*** on ***01446 795580*** or pop in to see us at ***Commercial Street, Llantwit Major.***

ZENERGY

Visit our shop we have a range of *gifts, accessories,* exclusive *costume jewellery, crystals,* fantastic value *beads, incense, accessories for children* etc. While browsing book a *psychic reading* for yourself or with a party of friends with Ant who is a Psychic Intuitive Coach.

07979 985630

DO YOU KNOW who is phoning or who is at the door before you answer it?

We are holding a *DEVELOP YOUR INTUITION WORKSHOP* which will enable participants to enhance the power of intuition which lies within everyone. It will awaken your insight through proactive exercises which stimulate your perceptive muscle to find your true life purpose.

The workshop will be held locally on Sunday 25 April, from 1000-1600 hours (venue to be confirmed). Buffet lunch included in the cost of £59. Further information from Ant 07979 985630 or email zenergyinfo@yahoo.co.uk or pop into the shop in East Street.

SK AUTO'S

FOR ALL YOUR MOTORING NEEDS

CARS, 4X4'S & LIGHT COMMERCIALS

SERVICING ON NEW & USED CARS
MOT PREPARATION
EXHAUSTS
BATTERIES
WELDING ETC

SERVICING FROM £30 + PARTS
BUDGET TYRES FROM £25 FITTED

HERITAGE BUSINESS PARK, WICK ROAD, LLANTWIT MAJOR. (FORMALLY KEN MORGANS) TEL: 01446 795855/07967 129977 (ALL WORK GUARANTEED) EST.1988

Jamima ~Bridal~

Located above Co-operative Travel, we are ideally placed for complete privacy for our clients. A good reputation for fabulous affordable gowns and excellent service is ensuring that we have Bridal Parties booking appointments from all over South Wales.

We will be attending the Paris Bridal Show in June to seek out even more beautiful gowns. Our formal Hire department will shortly be operating an After Wedding Pick Up Service, if required, for our clients, getting rid of the hassle of returning outfits!

The booking of Appointments is essential but we are very flexible and evenings are our speciality.

Please call 07845 161643 or email
janet@jamimabridal.co.uk www.thevaleorganisers.co.uk
Jamima Bridal, TVO Wedding Services,
7 The Precinct, Llantwit Major CF61 1XA

Step out in style... Special Occasions!

Perfect Fit
alterations to suit you

Gaynor
professional dressmaker

22 heol ger-y-felin
llantwit major
cf61 2xa
tel no. 01446 796284
mobile: 07766 880498
e-mail: gmcondo@hotmail.co.uk

Do you have a special event coming up soon, a wedding, a prom or birthday, but can't find the outfit your quite looking for. You've seen what you like but it's nowhere to be found. Then maybe we can help. Tell us what you like and we can make something perfect for you. Or maybe you have the outfit you want but it just needs a few alterations to make it a 'Perfect Fit'. No matter how big or small your sewing needs, I'm sure we can help you. Men, women, children we've even seen to your pets fashion!

Contact Gaynor:
T. 01446 796284 M. 07766 880498

A warm welcome awaits, eat drink and relax...

Mike, Jackie, Oliver & the team at the Blacksmiths Arms Llanmaes are delighted to announce that very shortly we will be launching our exciting summer menu and our little diners & young diners menu - for that family experience. From fresh salads & filled ciapini bread to great lunchtime specials and fantastic evening meals - our ethos - fresh, local, homecooked. Why not relax in the afternoon with a great fair trade Puro Coffee, or take it easy on a Sunday evening with our fun charity quiz? Telephone 01446 795996

LLANTWIT MAJOR'S SPRING UPDATE . . .

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

LEFT (top and bottom): Llantwit Major's commercial life straddles the 'old town' area and the Precinct.

Llantwit Major Autocentre

LLANTWIT Major Autocentre has been established since 1997, the proprietor, Peter Johns, has more than 41 years' motor trade experience. He has an experienced team of technicians, headed by Chris Stabler, the workshop manager.

He offers a full range of services; MoTs both petrol and diesel; servicing of all makes and models; competitively priced tyres; brakes; exhaust; batteries; parts and accessories; air-conditioning replenishment and service; wide range of diagnostic services and equipment.

Peter and his staff pride themselves on dealing with customers in a professional manner and keeping them well informed where costs are concerned.

Llantwit Major Autocentre: www.llantwitmajorautocentre.co.uk

LLANTWIT MAJOR AUTOCENTRE
Old Market Place, East St, Llantwit Major
COMPLETE CAR CENTRE
MECHANICAL REPAIRS & SERVICING
• MoTs • Tyres • Exhausts
• Batteries • Diagnostic • Brakes
• Clutches • Parts & Accessories
OPEN 6 DAYS
Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5.30pm
Saturday 9am - 1pm
Tel: 01446 790100

CLOGGS FOOTWEAR LTD

rieker Padders

An extensive range for all the family at affordable prices.
Why not treat yourself for Easter!

Derek Driver is a merry old sole and a merry old sole is he. He's been in business over 30 years Making generations of feet 'comfeee'!

Boverton Rd, LLANTWIT MAJOR: 01446 793360

BritishRedCross Furniture & Electrical

PLEASE come in to see our wonderful selection of nearly new furniture and electrical items at wonderful prices.

"We didn't realise it was a charity shop" is the most common comment, and we are always looking for good quality donations.

Are you out of work, but want to do something worthwhile that looks good on your CV? We are urgently looking for a drivers' helper for the collection and delivery of furniture. This is a voluntary position, but all expenses are paid.

Please come in to see us - you are guaranteed a warm welcome!

18-19 Poundfield, Llantwit Major CF61 1DL.
Telephone: 01446 793665.

CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICES
therapyworks

- Assessment, treatment and advice for Sports Injuries, Back, Neck and General Aches and Pains
- Registered with all major Insurance companies
- GP, consultant and self referral accepted

Tel: 01446 794166 9a Poundfield, Llantwit Major
Ample free parking
www.therapyworks.co.uk

Llantwit Major Chiropractic Back & Neck Clinic

- Headaches
- Shoulder & Arm Pain
- Back Pain
- Hip & Leg Pain (Sciatica)
- Neck Pain
- Work/Sports Injuries
- Posture
- Joint & Muscle Problems

Tel. 01446 79 5005
Liz Edwards, (Bsc (Chiro), DC, welcomes you to her new practice.

Member of the British Chiropractic Association & College of Chiropractors + General Chiropractors Council Registered Also IVCA & IAVC. Accredited for treatment of animals.
1st Floor, Gwynfa, Boverton Road, Llantwit Major, Vale of Glamorgan CF61 1XZ

As end of financial year arrives next week...

HEALTH BOARD HEADS FOR A £3.9m DEFICIT

THE Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board which runs hospitals serving Bridgend and the western Vale is likely to end up with a £3.9m deficit at the end of the financial year next week.

Management have been working hard to reduce this over recent months and ABM is one of the better new health boards in Wales.

Almost all of them are heading for big deficits as they grapple with inherited deficits caused, in some cases, by the merger of boards and trusts which took place last October.

Hywel Dda in west Wales is the worst with a projected £12m deficit with Gwent on £10m; Cardiff and the Vale on £5.5m; Cwm Taff on £5m and Powys on £7.6m. Only Betsi Cadwalladr in north Wales is set to break even.

ABM was created by merging the old ABM NHS Hospital Trust with the Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend Local Health Boards.

The ABM Trust was itself created three years ago by the merger of the old Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust with Swansea NHS Trust.

There were fears then among staff that Bro Morgannwg, which always ended in surplus at the end of the financial year, would be saddled with the financial problems from the Swansea end which was always in deficit. Financial director for ABM Eifion Williams has warned recently that the board was at risk of failing to deliver its statutory duties because of its financial problems.

A question was put to the ABM board by The GEM asking what those statutory duties were, but at the time of going to press, there had been no response – other than a provisional one stating that it could be a reference to the board's statutory duty to break even financially – but this has not been confirmed.

Staff at the Princess of Wales have already contacted The GEM about cut-backs, bed closures and staff shortages at the hospital caused by the board's financial difficulties.

The new board also runs all primary care services in the area, funding GP surgeries, dentists and pharmacists so any further cut-backs to balance the books will have far-reaching effects across the whole of the health service.

JAYNE ISAAC

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 610.

● **£2000:** 444578.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £500 was not claimed this week.**

● **£10:** 562934; 839707; 288634; 240223; 694731; 113075; 144895; 682267; 338540; 507237; 480885; 445304; 799978; 622693; 727649; 333529; 596149; 364995; 201490; 454070.

● **£5:**693158; 619605; 641997; 704702; 888011; 252482; 271331; 170146; 701551; 802985; 426158; 297215; 319606; 286986; 669051; 582087; 732529; 664409; 545821; 124939; 667811; 206608; 560960; 703859; 383409; 622341; 642878; 779795; 627105; 605914; 420155; 840532; 711008; 334004; 856971; 146883; 652699; 376899; 530009; 849395; 377920; 505316; 375510; 723587; 539484; 873084; 789097; 677486; 772032; 115445; 487724; 535374; 326829; 604990; 109854; 748263; 622922; 336100; 789129; 150857.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

The Big Brew!

Local schoolgirl Rebeka West was appointed Fairtrade's official reporter for the Big Brew event in Dinas Powys. Here is her account:

THE Big Brew took place in the Parish Hall, Dinas Powys on March 6. It was held from 10am till 12 noon.

It was held to celebrate Dinas Powys being a Fairtrade village. The purpose of the event was to show everyone the beautiful Fairtrade products they could buy, and raise awareness of Fairtrade. The schools from around the village entered competitions and their lovely work was on display. Thank you for all the schools that took part.

It was organised by the Dinas Powys Fairtrade team. It went very well and around 130 to 140 people came. There was a very warm welcome and at the door everyone was given a ticket to get a free Fairtrade kit kat! Also everyone who brought a cup, got a free Fairtrade cup of tea.

Fairtrade is very important for farmers and others who are less fortunate than ourselves. It is improving lives for many poor people from around the world and giving a reasonable amount of money for all their hard work.

There were lots of different stalls and many people got involved. Thank you to everyone who came and supported Fairtrade. It was a great success!

Rebekah West (age 10)

Roadworks report

Plassey Street, junctions with Glebe Street/Albert Road, Penarth – ongoing carriageway width restrictions.

Pontypridd Street, junction with Mount Pleasant – footway restriction in place ongoing.

Boverton Road, Llantwit Major – temporary traffic control until March 26.

East Aberthaw, Llysworney to AS48, Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys (Heol y Frenhinnes to Barry), B2468 Nash Manor to Cowbridge, A4222 Cowbridge to Ystradowen, Llandough to Leckwith Hill – temporary traffic control.

Broad Street, Barry (near Birdcage Walk) – carriageway width restrictions.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (HANNAH STREET BARRY) (ROAD CLOSURE) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2010

The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), and of all other enabling powers intends in not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below: -

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to proceed in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location	Hannah Street Barry along its entire length
Reason	To allow for essential sewer works to be carried out
Duration	From 09:00am Monday 5th April, 2010 for a maximum period of 18 months.
Alt. Route	The signed diversion route will be via Commercial Street for Northbound traffic and Davies Street for Southbound traffic.
Signing:	Appropriate temporary signing will indicate the alternative route.
NB:	**Vehicle Access for residents ONLY will be permitted from the Court Road end.** Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.

Dated this 25th day of March 2010.

M. Punter
Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps, Wenvoe CF5 6AA

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

Out and About with The GEM

I LOVE YOU, PHILLIP MORRIS – AND YOU MAY DO SO, TOO!

COMEDIANS who move to dramatic fare are somewhat of a mixed bag; while Adam Sandler showed he could rein in his man-child tendencies in *Punch-Drunk Love*, *Spanglish* and *Funny People*, and Eric Bana has transferred from stand-up comedian to stand-out actor with the likes of *Chopper* and *Troy*, there have been many who have struggled to achieve the same acclaim.

One comedian who has made the successful leap is Jim Carrey, who has balanced the likes of *Dumb and Dumber* and *Bruce Almighty* with *Man on the Moon*, *The Truman Show* and *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*.

His latest sees him take on the true life tale of a con-man in *I Love You, Phillip Morris*. Carrey plays Steven Russell, a happily married family man who, after a car accident, reassesses his life and decides that not only is he gay, but also decides to live life to the fullest – whether that be legally or illegally.

When he is imprisoned, Steven meets Phillip Morris (Ewan McGregor). Falling in love, Steven is intent on building the perfect life for the two of them outside prison walls, and will do whatever it takes to achieve this, including a light spot of law breaking...

Stories of con artists and hustlers generally make for a quality viewing experience. Whether it be Leonardo DiCaprio being pursued by Tom Hanks in *Catch Me If You Can*, or Nicolas Cage conning people in *Matchstick Men*, the dubious world these characters inhibit are always brought vividly to life, and rarely do they position the con artist as the bad guy.

This much is true of *...Phillip Morris*, and while it perhaps doesn't quite scale the heights of those aforementioned works, it still makes for a pleasing experience.

While the casting of Jim Carrey in the lead may lead some to believe this is an out-and-out comedy, it is a little more obscure than his mainstream fare.

Carrey acolytes who appreciate the dark and twisted humour he offered in the much-maligned *The Cable Guy* will be on surer footing, as while this film doesn't plunge to the dark depths that film did, it is a little odder than, say, *Fun With Dick and Jane*.

Carrey delivers a wonderful turn as the man whose life seemingly willingly turns upside down into a world of crime. While the life of Steven Russell is an intriguing one in itself, Carrey plays the role broadly for comic effect, with the film occasionally lapsing into drama.

Given his talent for both the comedic and the dramatic, Carrey is well suited to the role, yet tends to provide too much of the latter and not enough of the former.

The mugging is restrained, but the performance, while strong, could have benefited from being rooted a little more in reality than it is.

A quality cast have been assembled around Carrey, and while they all bring the goods to the table, they are short-changed to a degree by a script that never gives them enough. Ewan McGregor seems to have been enjoying finding his feet in films that don't require as much star wattage, and follows up his role in *The Men Who Stare At Goats* with another warm and enjoyable performance.

Full of wide-eyed admiration for Steven, he shares good chemistry with Carrey and is a solid foil to his co-star; it is just a shame that he is little more than a cipher for the story, being given no backstory or real depth.

The same goes for Leslie Mann, as Steven's ex-wife, and Rodrigo Santoro as his ex-boyfriend. Both characters offer up decent turns, but it's more a result of their abilities as actors rather than anything the script feeds them.

It's a shame that the supporting characters, all of whom play such a pivotal part in Steven's life, aren't given enough meat to give the story some dramatic weight, and while the actors inhibiting the characters work hard, it isn't reflected in a screenplay that sidelines them.

Screenwriters and directors John Requa and Glenn Ficara take the incredible nature of the story and craft a film that is high on chutzpah and 'did that really happen' histrionics – some of Russell's schemes and ideas are so full of bravura that they lend themselves perfectly to the frothy nature of the film.

What they do a little less successfully, aside from offering a degree of depth to the events taking place, is work a way to get the events to gel.

As the film pounds its way towards its conclusion, there is a notable tonal shift from light-hearted to something far more serious; it's a shift with a sting in its tail, but even so, it feels a little awkward and takes the steam out of the film's engines a little.

I Love You, Phillip Morris is an intriguing and comedic proposition – its true-life origins make for a film that is highly interesting; while it may not hit stratospheric heights, the audacity of some of Steven Russell's scams will keep you engrossed throughout.

While the script isn't the best, overall it is a pleasing work that will entertain – and you may end up loving Phillip Morris, too!

VERDICT - A frothy crime caper, *I Love You, Phillip Morris* is a solid vehicle for Jim Carrey to show off both his flair for comedy and drama.

While a touch too light at times, and with a script that is far too reliant on the lead character, the performances and and strength of story iron out those flaws, resulting in a film that is entertaining.

Enjoyable.

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

Travel back in time to Cosmeston

AS spring arrives and the trees burst into leaf, so Cosmeston Medieval Village prepares for yet another busy year.

The first event of the season is the Easter 'living history' event on April 4-11 from 11am to 5pm. Visitors will have the opportunity to see what life was like for rich and poor more than 600 years ago.

As visitors wander the village and see the buildings, artefacts and animals of medieval Wales they can stop and chat to villagers performing a variety of different crafts, from baking and tending the gardens, to herbalism and the more unpleasant skills shown by the surgeon!

There will also be the chance to try on armour and hold weapons of the medieval knight and even have a go at archery! For visitors with an urge to act, one of the village mummers will be asking for help in preparing a play to set before the manor's lord.

"But most important of all is the traditional Easter Egg Hung - not really medieval, but we all love it – and who could turn down the chance of some chocolate?" spokesperson said.

For more information call 029 2070 1678.

Country craft fair

THE Country Crafts and Gift Fair will be held in Old Hall, Cowbridge, this Saturday (March 27) between 10am-4pm.

Lots of stalls and plenty of variety.

Coffee date

THE Vale Mayor's charity coffee morning for Amelia Trust Farm will now be held on Tuesday, April 13 at St Helen's Church Hall, Barry.

NOTE: Change of date from April 6.

THE GLAMORGAN HUNT
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COWBRIDGE UNITED FREE CHURCH Easter Services 2010

Palm Sunday 28th - 10.30: Family Worship and Churches Together procession with donkey to Town Hall via Holy Cross Church
Monday 29th - 7pm: Churches Together Lent meditative worship at United Free Church
Maundy Thursday April 1st - 7 pm: Evening Worship with Lord 's Supper and foot washing
Good Friday April 2nd - 7 pm: Music and Meditation
Easter Day April 4th - 10.30am: Family Worship with communion;
6pm: Evening Worship for Easter with communion

www.cowbridgeunitedfreechurch.org.uk

Andrew RT Davies AM
Welsh Conservative Assembly Member for South Wales Central

Ceidwadwyr Cymreig
Welsh Conservatives

To attend an advice surgery, please contact:
Tel: 02920 898523
Office: 29 High Street, Barry, CF62 9EB
Andrew's next surgery:
Friday 26th March
10.00 am - 11.30 am
Website: www.andrewrtdavies.com
Email: andrewRT.davies@wales.gov.uk

European Funding

If your organisation works with people who are economically inactive, or unemployed and you aim to increase individual skills and experience for long term benefit then **The Engagement Gateway** Scheme may be for you.

If you would like to find out more about this scheme and the levels of contracts available, why not book a place on one of the following workshops?

Friday 7th May, 2010
Cowbridge Town Hall, Cowbridge. CF71 7AD
9:30 - 11am:
Engagement Gateway Scheme & Tendering Process
11:30 - 1pm:
The Pre Qualification Questionnaire

Monday 17th May, 2010
The Community Enterprise Centre, Skomer Road, Barry. CF62 9DZ

1:30 - 3pm:
Engagement Gateway Scheme & Tendering Process
3:30 - 5pm:
The Pre Qualification Questionnaire

To book a place, or for further information please contact Natalie Sargent your local Engagement Gateway Volunteering Officer on (01446) 421782 or e-mail natalie@vvb.org.uk

Events organised by Vale Volunteer Bureau, 34 Holton Road, Barry. CF63 4HD

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Out and About with The GEM

Dress up or down for a pound – and raise a smile for Ty Hafan

SCHOOLS and local groups are being urged to take part in a 'Dress Up or Down for a Pound' campaign for Ty Hafan hospice on Friday, April 30.

A spokeswoman explained: "The life-limited children and young people who visit Ty Hafan, love to dress up and have fun while making the most of every precious moment they have left with their families.

"Show your support for them and join in the fun by dressing up or down and paying a pound so these life-limited children, young people and their families continue to get the comfort, care and support they so desperately need, completely free of charge."

Hayley Mason, a member of the busy family support team at Ty Hafan, recalls many dressing-up sessions at the hospice.

"In the past 10 years, I have been a cowgirl, a fairy, a shepherd, a sheep, a medieval queen, an army cadet, a snowman, a pirate, a Christmas present, a Christmas tree and a cracke! There is nothing we wouldn't do to raise a smile."

However you decide to dress on April 30, by donating just £1 to Ty Hafan you can help to keep on raising those smiles and making the world of difference to the lives of the families and children who use Ty Hafan's services.

For more information on how to take part in 'Dress Up or Down for a Pound' visit www.dressupordownforapound.co.uk or contact Gaynor on 029 2067 2060.

Hospice staff – Kirsty Clark, Tracy Hill, and Lynne Doyle ('Rabbit').

CAB calls for bilingual volunteers

THE Citizens Advice Bureau in the Vale and Bridgend is appealing for bilingual volunteers to man the phones.

CAB: Adviceline Cymru is a new bilingual service which provides callers with information, can recommend other appropriate local organisations and services and will also set up face to face appointments when needed.

It has been successfully piloted and is now ready to expand, thanks to a £750k boost from the Welsh Assembly government.

Full training will be provided for all Adviceline Cymru volunteers, including support to brush up Welsh speaking skills if needed.

Jane Clay manager of Vale of Glamorgan CAB said: "Enquiries to bureaux across Wales rose by 11% last year. Adviceline Cymru will enable even more people in Wales to access free confidential advice on any issue they may have.

"Absolutely anyone can apply but we're particularly keen to hear from Welsh speakers or anybody who wishes to brush up their Welsh"

For further information visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/amazeyourself or call: 08451 264 264 (English language line) or 01286 676 514* (Welsh language line).*

Easter at KPC Youth

KPC Youth will be open for the school Easter holidays with a packed programme of activities.

The centre is open to ages 8+ (with free admission, if members, for ages 13-17 years). Admission cost is otherwise just £1 per session, and £1.50 to become a member.

KPC also offers a FREE minibus service home for 13+ on a Tuesday and Thursday nights to Kenfig Hill, Cefn Cribbwr and Cornelly.

The programme includes:

Fishing Trip (Sunday, March 28); Go Karting (Tuesday, March 30); Quad Biking (Wednesday, March 31); Boxing (PM Thursday, April 1 and Thursday, April 8); Trip to the Crystal Maze + Bowling (Friday, April 9); Trip to see Moulin Rouge at Porthcawl Pavilion (Saturday, April 10); and lots of sports, the skate park, arts/crafts, and a range of workshops on Healthy Livestyles.

The centre opens daily from 10am, but will be closed for the Bank Holiday Weekend (April 2-5).

For details of forthcoming events, telephone 01656 745399.

KPC Youth is next to Pil Primary School, Off Pyle Inn Way, Pyle.

Cinema's story at the Park

THE history of Barry's last cinema, the Theatre Royal, is covered in an exhibition of memorabilia, photographs, posters and pictures at 'The Room in the Park'.

Put together by local resident John Moore, the 'From Chaplin to Bond . . . and beyond' exhibition at the Victoria Park venue will run from April 1-17. Entry is free, and it will be open daily from 10am-4pm (closed between 1pm-2pm on weekends).

The exhibition covers the building's 100-year history through the age of silent movies to the all-action blockbusters of the 21st Century, and includes extracts from old newspapers and prints from old newsreels.

Twinning meeting

THE Vale of Glamorgan Twinning Association will meet on March 31, at the Vale Civic Offices in Barry at 4.30pm, when 10 members, including two Vale councillors, and officers will be appointed.

The association will promote, support and develop links with Fécamp (France), Mouscron (Belgium) and Rheinfelden (Germany) – the Vale's twin towns – and Jurbarkas (Lithuania) and Neumarkt (Italy), with whom there are friendship pacts.

The Vale Council's cabinet has agreed a three-year funding package of £6,000 for the association.

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Re-opening 3rd April – Easter Saturday then Saturdays and Sundays 11.00 am - 5.00 pm

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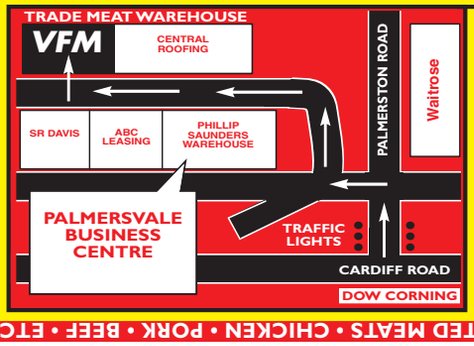

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LETTINGS

BARRY

4 YMCA Buildings, Woodlands Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan - £450 pcm - Ground floor two bedroom apartment, part furnished. Lounge, open plan fitted kitchen with appliances. Double bedroom, small single bedroom, ideal as a study. Bathroom/wc/shower. Allocated parking.

RHOOSE

29 Station Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan - £450 pcm - Unfurnished two bedroomed ground floor flat with private garden. Lounge, kitchen, bathroom/wc. UPVCglazing, GCH, Parking. Excellent locationforall local amenities and train station.

24 Havant Close, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan - £450 pcm - Completely refurbished well proportioned two double bedroomed apartment in the heart of RhooseVillage within close walking distance of all local amenities and publictransport. New carpets throughtout. Lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances, bathroom/wc/shower. There is private parking.

35 The Wheate Close, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan - £500 pcm - Unfurnished 2 bed link property. Lounge, kitchen/diningarea. 1 double and 1 single bedroom. Bathroom/wc/shower. Full gas central heating. Off road parking.

102 Fonmon Park Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan - £525 pcm - Completely refurbished two bed semi detached house. Lounge, fitted kitchen with oven and hob. Modern bathroom/wc. Full gas central heating, new UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Brand new carpets throughout.

2 Castle Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan - £650 pcm - 3 bedroomed family home available to rent in the heart of Rhoose, close to all local amenities and within easy walking distance of local train station. Entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen with dining area. 2 double, 1 single bedroom. Modern bathroom/wc/shower. Full gas central heating, gardens to front and rear. Parking to side of property.

4 Porfa Ballas, Rhoose, Point Vale of Glamorgan £1,250 pcm - Unfurnished six bedroomed executive property with double garage over four levels. Living room, kitchen, dining room, cloakroom, sitting room/TVroom, utilityroom. Rhoose Point is a superb up and coming executive development which is a 20 minute drive to M4 and the now established Rhoose railway linking to Cardiff and Bridgend. Ideal for the commuter. Internal inspection is highly recommended.

11 Rhodfa R Mor, Rhoose Point, Vale of Glamorgan - £1,450 pcm - Substantial 5 bed detached property with double garage offered for rent in a much sought after location. Uninterrupted panoramic sea views across the Bristol Channel. The property is in immaculate order throughout and fitted to a very high standard. 5 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms. 4 reception rooms. Double garage with parking for 4/5cars. Viewing is highly recommended.

LLANTWIT

16 Llys Dwynwen, Llantwit Major, Vale of Glamorgan - £500 pcm - Unfurnished two bed property in a quiet much sought after location in Llantwit Major. Lounge, kitchen, one double, one single bedroom. Bathroom/wc/shower. Gardens to front and rear, off road parking.

4 Redwood Close, Boverton, Vale of Glamorgan £500 pcm - Unfurnished 2 bedroom first floor flat. Lounge, kitchen with washing machine and space for an electric cooker, bathroom/shower/wc, 2 double bedrooms. Electric heating. Private parking.

ST ATHAN

13 Scott Close, St Athan, Vale of Glamorgan - £475 pcm - Unfurnished 3 bed link house. Lounge, kitchen/dining area with cooker. Cloakroom. 2 double, 1 single bedroom. Bathroom/ wc/shower. Full gas central heating. DSS considered subject to references.

24 Shackleton Close, St Athan, Vale of Glamorgan - £550 pcm - Three bed house which is presented in good decorative order throughout. Lounge, fitted kitchen/dining room, cloakroom, 2 double and 1 single bedroom. Bathroom/wc. Full gas central heating, enclosed rear garden.

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Gofalu Am Ein Hamgylchedd — *Caring for our Environment*

DEDDF BYWYD GWYLLT A CHEFN GWLAD 1981 FEL Y'I CYFNEWIDIWYD GAN ATODLEN 9 DEDDF CEFN GWLAD A HAWLIAU TRAMWY 2000

HYSBYSU SAFLE O DDIDDORDEB GWYDDONOL ARBENNIG O DAN ADRAN 28 (1)

RHODDIR rhybudd trwy hyn bod Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru yn ystyried Cors Aberthin yn Safle o Ddiddordeb gwyddonol Arbennig (SoDdGA).

Y mae'r safle hwn 0.3 km i'r gogledd ddwyrain o Aberthin a 0.65 km i'r gogledd o Y Bont-faen yn Awdurdod Unedol Bro Morgannwg ac mae'n ymestyn dros arwynebedd o 11.7 hectar. Canolir y safle ar Cyfeirnod Grid Cenedlaethol ST003755.

Mae'r safle o ddiddordeb arbennig oherwydd ei laswelltir corsog a glaswelltir niwtral sy'n gyfoethog mewn rhywogaethau.

O dan yr hysbysiad hwn mae'n ofynnol i bob perchennog a deiliaid hysbysu'r Cyngor am rai gweithrediadau arbennig a allai amharu ar ddiddordeb arbennig y safle. Gall methu â gwneud hynny fod yn gyfystyr â throsedd.

Nid yw'r hysbysiad hwn yn rhoi unrhyw hawliau mynediad i SoDdGA Cors Aberthin.

Gall unrhyw un sydd â diddordeb yn y tir wneud sylwadau ynghylch yr hysbysiad yn ysgrifenedig at y Cyngor yn y cyfeiriad isod erbyn 23 Gorffennaf 2010.

Gellir cael manylion llawn am yr hysbysiad gan gynnwys map, disgrifiad o'r safle a rhestr o weithrediadau a allai fod yn niweidiol a datganiad o farn y Cyngor am reoli'r tir oddi wrth:

Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru, 7, Llys Castleton, Ffordd Fortran, Llaneirwg, Caerdydd CF3 0LT.

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 AS SUBSTITUTED BY SCHEDULE 9 TO THE COUNTRYSIDE AND RIGHTS OF WAY ACT 2000

NOTIFICATION OF A SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST UNDER SECTION 28 (1)

NOTICE is hereby given that the Countryside Council for Wales considers Cors Aberthin to be a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The site is located 0.3 km to the north east of Aberthin and 0.65 km north of Cowbridge in the Unitary Authority of the Vale of Glamorgan and covers an area of 11.7 hectares. Centred on National Grid Reference ST 003755.

The site is of special interest for its marshy grassland and species-rich neutral grassland.

Under this notification there is a requirement on all owners and occupiers to notify the Council of certain operations which may damage the special interest of the site. Failure to do so may constitute an offence.

This notification does not confer any rights of access to Cors Aberthin SSSI.

Any person with an interest in the land may make representations regarding the notification in writing to the Council at the address below by 23 July 2010.

Full details of the notification including a map, site description and list of potentially damaging operations and a statement on the Council's views about the management of the land can be obtained from:

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Family Notices

FOSTER
Campbell William

Peacefully, on March 19th at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend after a short illness, Campbell of Llantwit Major. Beloved husband of Chris, loving father of Julia and Meurig, Emma and Rich, proud son of Margaret and John, brother of Malcolm. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, March 30th, service 2pm at The Gathering Place, St Athan followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.45pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to St Athan Methodist Church or The Salvation Army, both c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

Clarice May Jones

The Family would like to thank all of their relatives, friends & neighbours for messages of sympathy received during the recent bereavement. A special thank you to Dr McGovern, district nurses and Marie Curie nurses, especially Jackie, for their compassion and care. A thank you to Nan, Aelene and Babs. Also to Insight Club Cowbridge, Kay from Age Concern and the staff at the Red Cross at the Gathering Place. A final thank you to all who attended the funeral, Reverend Binny and Reverend Prince for a lovely service and W James & Son, Funeral Directors and kind donations to Marie Curie nurses.

TURRELL
Clive Edward

Clive passed away peacefully, at home, in the presence of his family on Sunday March 21, after a long illness fought with great strength of spirit.
He was the loving and dearly loved husband of Marilyn, the loved and respected father of Andrew and James, father-in-law of Amy and adored grandad of Milly and Elsie (in New Zealand).
He was also a very dear brother-in-law, uncle and friend to many. His sparkling wit and great sense of fun will be sadly missed by all who came into contact with him.
Resting at WA Brown & Son, Pembroke House, College Street, Llantwit Major CF61 1SG until the service at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend, on Wednesday March 31 at 2.45pm (where all please meet).
Flowers may be sent to the funeral home, or if wished donations for Macmillan Cancer Relief, or Marie Curie Cancer Care may be given to the funeral director (cheques only, please).

Thank You

Pat and Ben Walker

would like to thank their family for their love, help and support since Pat's accident.
Thanks also to our friends, neighbours and Llantwit Major Twinning Association for their cards, gifts, prayers, good wishes and continued support.
We wish you all a Happy Easter.

Anniversaries

50th Wishing a Happy 50th
GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
to **Barbara** *and* **Ted Sims**
26th March 2010
With love from all your children
Debbie and Ray,
Jonathan, Jayne and Tony,
Kelly and Carl
also your grandchildren and great granddaughter
50th 50th

Birthdays

Laurence Thomas FOGG
30th March
Congratulations on your **18th** birthday
Love, Mam, Dad, Kath, Evan, Emily, Kim and Chris

Happy 65th Birthday • Happy 65th Birthday
Happy 65th Birthday
ELLEN WILLIS
March 17th
OAP at last!
Love from I, B & N
x x
Happy 65th Birthday • Happy 65th Birthday

ANYSHA PANESAR
29th March, 2010
Not-so-sweet 16 at last!
Happy birthday baby, Love you so much, Mum, Dad & Toby
x x x

Happy 16th Birthday
ANYSHA PANESAR
29th March, 2010
Have a wonderful time in Canada and New York!
Lots of love, Nan and Bampa xxx

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HAPPY 16th BIRTHDAY NYSH!
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Lots of love, Dylan.
xxx

Happy 43rd Birthday Harby!
29th March, 2010
'Losing weight, but getting older!'
Lots of love from all your wonderful loving family! x x x

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Alison Maker
28th March 2010
Happy 21st Birthday "Aliy"
Lots of love Mum, Dad, Andrew & Bev

Pony club holds award night for young riders

THE fourth Glamorgan Pony Club annual presentation evening was held recently in the Reading Rooms in Bonvilston.

District Commissioner Norma Griffiths started off by thanking everyone who puts in so much help throughout the year, and handed over to secretary Annie Whitehouse, who gave a review of the year.

The highlights included camp week, winning all the classes in the team show jumping winter series in Talygarn, and the annual duck race, to mention but a few.

After the run-through of the accounts, Norma introduced Mike Gibbon, Master of Fox Hounds of the Glamorgan Hunt and president of Glamorgan Pony Club, to hand out certificates to members who had represented Glamorgan at various area competitions:

Area quiz: Evie Vaughn Jones, Tom Brinn, Gemma Brinn, Alice Pembridge, Emma Lockwood, Ellie Dix, Louise Edwards, Adam Dix, Nonnie Medlicott, Bethany Jarvis, Ellie Medlicott, Madison Garland, Alyson Bater.

Area Tetrathlon (minis): Genevieve Kirk, Ellie Medlicott.

Area eventing: Pippa Hayes, Emma Lockwood, Bethany Jarvis, Bethan Allman, Jessica Tidley, Alice Pembridge.

Area dressage: Emma Lockwood, Pippa Hayes, Jessica Tidley, Alice Pembridge, Bethany Jarvis, Ellie Medlicott, Madison Garland.

Alice Pembridge.

Adam Dix.

Area show jumping: Jessica Tidley, Ellie Dix, Alice Pembridge.

Next was the presentation of the cups: The best attendance under-12 went to Luke Tidley, over-12 to Bethan Allman.

Best turned out throughout the year went to Ellie Dix.

Represented pony club most times – to Alice Pembridge.

The Hunter trial cup went to Adam Dix.

The most improved rider went to Evie Vaughn-Jones.

Mike finished off the evening with a huge thanks to Norma for her hard work, and to the children who make it all worthwhile.

The club caters for all abilities, from leading rein to B test level and above. Anyone interested in joining, should come along to a Wednesday evening rally at Spring Meadows, Llandow, or telephone Norma 01446 734687.

Bethan Allman.

Ellie Dix.

Luke Tidley.

Evie Vaughn Jones.

It is a 'remarkable resurgence' as...

Town fight back to reach semi-final

COWBRIDGE Town continued their remarkable resurgence with a win that sends them into the semi-finals of the Vale of Glamorgan League Cup at the expense of Cadoxton Imps.

Cowbridge showed great determination to seal victory and dispatch the Imps for the second successive weekend.

The Red and Blacks again lined up at Barry Sports Centre, minus a couple of key individuals, and struggled in the early stages as the Imps set the pace. Not helped by playing into a strong headwind, Cowbridge failed to find their passing rhythm and allowed the hosts to take the lead after just 10 minutes.

A hopeful cross came off the Town bar and with no defender in sight, the Imps' striker tapped in for 1-0.

It got worse shortly afterwards as a strong home side continued to dominate without carving out too many clear openings. A second had been on the cards, however, and duly came courtesy of a low drive which nestled into the bottom corner of Ian Bavey's goal.

It didn't look as if Cowbridge would be seeing any more cup action this season, but Town showed that a bit of luck can often pay dividends in this game – and so it proved as two of the scrappiest goals seen this season got Cowbridge back on level terms before half-time.

Against the run of play, a hopeful ball into the box came off the shoulder of striker Jack Gavin to find the net at the near post, despite the presence of half a dozen defenders.

With half-time looming, the equaliser came in not too dissimilar fashion as a looping effort was somehow not pushed over by the Imps' goalkeeper, and as the ball dropped after hitting the woodwork, a sea of bodies engaged in a scramble that eventually saw Matthew Pound bundle the ball home.

Manager Ed Jones read the riot act at half-time and his Cowbridge charges knew they were fortunate to be level. In a classic demonstration of a game of two halves, Town showed why they have now won seven straight games with a second half display that showcased plenty of ability and a fine team spirit.

Luke James was instrumental as Cowbridge banished any thoughts of first half sloppiness with wave after wave of attacking moves. Lloyd Lewis was unfortunate not to finish off the move of the match after two minutes when he shot just over.

Town did take the lead for the first time in the match, courtesy of a Craig Burrows header, the captain rising at the back post with a trade mark effort.

Cadoxton saw little of the ball for the rest of the half as Cowbridge looked to seal victory in style. An effort by Gavin went wide after he had collected a neat through ball, while Town were finding joy down the right, thanks to some pinpoint passes by James.

Luke came close with an ambitious 40-yard effort before sealing a semi-final place for Bridge with 10 minutes remaining. Finding himself onside from a ball over the top, the tricky winger placed an effort over the advancing keeper to spark great joy in the away side's ranks.

Having been two down and shell-shocked after half an hour, the side showed a brilliant attitude to turns things around and seal a terrific victory at the second placed side in the league.

Llantwit Major Junior football round-up

by GWYN JOHN

THE heavy rain on Friday night put paid to many matches across south Wales on Saturday.

Only one match went ahead at Windmill Lane, where Llantwit Major under-12s played Holton Road.

Both under-14 A and under-15 matches were postponed, as their pitches were waterlogged.

The under-12 side kept up their good form to beat Holton Road 7-0, to complete another double and move further in front at the top of the league.

This week, the goals were shared between Will Perkins (2), Richard Stevens, Kristian Jones, Richard Dangerfield, Luke Allison and Harvey Stockford.

The under-14 B side travelled to Dinas Powys A and lost 5-0 on a waterlogged pitch, which was unfit and the game should have been called off.

The under-13 B also followed a similar fate in losing to Dinas Powys B 6-0 on the adjoining pitch.

The club are certainly hoping for better weather to catch up on the fixture backlog.

Dinas Powys regret missing vital chances

BRYNTIRION 2 -DINAS POWYS 1
WELSH LEAGUE - DIVISION 1

AFTER a thorough pitch inspection by the referee, this game was deemed playable after heavy rain during the day.

The hosts had the best of the early exchanges, Ricky Hodge shooting wide from a corner and Jon Cuss volleying wide.

Dinas began to assert some pressure of their own when a good run and cross by Rhodri Foote was met by Joe Hinds, but the chance was cleared. On the 15 minute mark, Barry Pappin took a free kick which found Jacob Rudman whose shot cleared the cross-bar.

This was followed by another chance when a shot from Hinds was blocked but fell to Mark Dunford who hammered the ball home but was adjudged offside.

Dinas finally got the breakthrough on 25 minutes when Hinds again broke into the box but was chopped down.

This time Dunford made no mistake from the penalty spot to give the visitors the lead.

The hosts then upped the pressure and Dinas held their lead for just 12 minutes before Lloyd Davies was adjudged to have tripped a Bryntirion forward in the box and Tom Wellington made it 1-1 from the spot.

Just before the interval the visitors' superb keeper Peter Blain had to make a diving save to gather a deflected shot and had to make another save when Cuss got a shot on target from a corner but the half ended level.

Dinas had early chances at the start of the second half, Dunford latching onto a through ball but his effort was just wide and a good passing sequence between Hinds and Dunford set up substitute Provis for a chance but he was closed down.

As the half wore on the hosts began to get on top and Blain put in a man-of-the-match performance blocking shots from all angles and tipping one deep cross cum shot from the Bryntirion captain Paul Evans over the bar.

However, the pressure finally told when a cross from the left was swept home by Anthony Rawlings to give the hosts the lead with 15 minutes remaining.

It was backs to the wall time for Dinas as the very fit Bryntirion side looked to increase their lead.
Hodge did manage to beat Blain but his effort was ruled offside and Dinas saw out the remaining minutes to keep the score respectable.

Dinas can reflect that they can match the best teams in the division after their performances over the last three matches.

Further details can be found on the club's website at www.dinaspowys-fc.co.uk

Bebb returns to home club

Left to right: Sion Bebb, club captain Len Bosley and Ryder Cup Wales chairman John Jermine with Iestyn Harridge, a pupil at Tonysguboriau Primary School.

GOLFERS at a club in south Wales will be able to practise and learn indoors, thanks to the impact of The Ryder Cup coming to Wales in October.

Llantrisant and Pontyclun golf club have new indoor practice nets, teaching facilities and putting area, officially opened by PGA European Tour star Sion Bebb, who learned to play as a junior member at the club before travelling the world in the professional ranks.

The club aim to produce more top players like Bebb in the future because of the new facilities and a drive to encourage children, women and men to take up the game at the Talbot Green course, thanks to a grant from Ryder Cup Wales showing the impact the event is having on Welsh golf at all levels.

For the first month after the official opening on March 19 there will be free lessons for ladies on a Tuesday, juniors and men on a Saturday, using the new state-of-the-art facilities.

Bella wins at Uttoxeter

PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY farmer Phil Dando saw his eight-year-old old homebred mare *Bella Haze* land the Totescoop Handicap Hurdle under David Prichard (19) at Uttoxeter last Saturday.

A winner of three of her last four races, *Bella Haze*, a 12-1 chance, was given a peach of a ride by her determined young rider, who is making a name for himself.

Bella Haze could run at Cheltenham next in a mares only race.

The men's open race and the ladies' open race at the Curre & Llangibby point-to-point were both won by horses qualified with the Pentyrch Hunt.
Keith Pritchard's *Cannon Bridge*, ridden by Welsh champion rider Isabel Tompsett, made all the running to land the ladies' open by four lengths from *Grey Kid* and Mrs Rae Jones' *Up There*, partnered by Liam Payter, took up the running approaching the final fence to score by seven lengths from *Saint Reverien*.

Robert Rowsell's *Divvys Dream*, who is also qualified with the Pentyrch Hunt, took the second division of the maiden under John Norman in a time which was eleven seconds faster than *Go On Paddy Joe* had taken in winning the first division.

Norman, who rides out for Aberthin trainer Tim Vaughan, was denied a double when his club members' mount *Sams Lad* was beaten a neck by *Prioritsation*.

Cowbridge's James Tudor riding Lynda Lovell's *The Boat* took the restricted race after leading five fences from home to score by twelve lengths from *Turn Card*.

The Boat, who had failed to finish in his previous three starts, looks sure to go on to better things
now that he appears to have sorted out his jumping problems.

BRIAN LEE

Schoolboy reaches boxing finals

DANIEL RUFFLE, a member of Llantwit Major Comprehensive School, has reached the British School boxing finals.

The young boxer is representing Wales at light flyweight in the competition, being held in the famous Troxy Theatre in London's Docklands on Thursday, March 25.

Daniel boxes for Llantwit Major Amateur Boxing Club. Dillion Cooke has reached the ABA final, held on the same night. Both boxers are on the next club show to be held at Llantwit Major RFC on April 15, together with other local boxers from St Athan, Llantwit and Rhoose, including some female bouts.

Daniel Ruffle.

THE KARATE TIGERS EARN THEIR STRIPES

ABOVE: The pupils who took part in the grading examination.

BARRY YMCA Hub was the venue when the latest Vale Karate Tigers grading examination took place.

More than 20 children from four to seven years, who train at Vale Karate on Saturday and Monday classes at the YMCA, demonstrated a series of techniques in order to earn new belts – material proof that they are all improving.

Vale Karate chief instructor and head coach Rob Copeland, has adapted the traditional syllabus for this age group, aiming for a more gradual improvement, ensuring the children enjoy their karate as they earn striped belts between the traditional Kyu grades.

Rob said: "I've been delighted with the development of this group of children and am used to seeing huge improvements in young children's confidence.

"I have also been hugely encouraged by the response of parents, with many reporting a great improvement in their children's general behaviour.

Barry Town rue missed chances

Nathaniel Car Sales cup semi-final	
BARRY TOWN	1
CROESYCEILIOG	2

BARRY Town went into this game with confidence, having appeared to have turned the corner after some indifferent results in January and February.

There were changes to the team, with Atif Bashir, Jaymes Dixon and Lewis James all cup-tied and Kirk Huggins joining the lengthening injury list.

Even with all these changes, the team should still have been good enough to win the game against their struggling second division opponents. Cup games bring some strange score lines and this game was to prove that.

The team started well and were soon into their renowned passing game, but within a few minutes a quick ball out to the right was floated into the Barry Town penalty area and suddenly Croesy were one up.

The Dragons were straight back into the match and pressured the Croesy defence before a cross from the left by Nickie Jones found Sam Small at the far post to level the scores.

Barry Town completely dominated the first half but were susceptible to quick counter-attacks and were nearly caught out, but a brilliant stop from Dragons keeper Dan Bradley saved what seemed to be a certain goal.

The second half was marred by a serious injury to Croesy defender Huw Williams, who was taken to hospital. The game was held up for 10-15 minutes and the break seemed to spur Croesy on.

Within 10 minutes, they had taken the lead again with a carbon copy of their first. The Dragons hit the crossbar twice and chances which should have been taken were not.

The Croesy defence stood firm against a Barry Town team which had the majority of the skill, possession and territory, but it's goals that win games and Croesy had two.

In the dying seconds, a Croesy defender appeared to handle the ball on the line to stop what looked like the goal to take the tie into extra time. Unfortunately for The Dragons, neither the referee nor his assistant saw the offence, so Croesy hung on for the win.

While all at the club were desperately disappointed with the outcome, we wish Croesy the very best of luck in the final, and also wish Huw Williams a speedy recovery.

Karate club has a new training centre

LOCAL karate champs Lee and Spencer Bennett, chief instructors of the Rising Sun Karate Club, are on a roll!

After raising more than £1,000 for local injured war hero, Dale Leech, and the charity Help for Heroes, they have opened their own training facility, the 'Samurai Martial Arts Centre and Power Strength Gym' for members of the club.

The beginners class is every Tuesday at 7pm in the new centre which is adjacent to The Savoy.

For the younger juniors, we have the Rising Sun Rising Stars. This involves using fun and games to teach four to seven-year-olds the discipline of martial arts in a friendly environment.

Sempai Spencer's British title.

For more information, contact Sensei Lee (3rd dan) or Sempai Spencer (2nd dan) on 07861 699476 or 01446 744503.

Knap fightback comes up short

KNAP FC were home to Cardiff Airport and fell behind to an early goal.

However, Knap looked comfortable with the premier league leaders with Steve Coxon playing the lone striker and working his socks off.

The midfield of Chris Bardsley and man of the match Wayne Davies, with the ever-present Walters, were having a lot of the ball, with Matthew Bradley and Russ Ware working the wings with purpose and energy.

The back four of Kevin Payne, Matthew Watts, James Howe and Jordan Ross were in control but after 65 minutes, the knap went three-nil down quickly.

A quality looping goal by Wayne into the Airport top corner cut the deficit but an error at the back let the Airport in for their fourth.

However, the Knap weren't finished and scored twice, the second from Wayne Davies.

They were back in it, with a chance to pull off one of the greatest come backs in Barry cup history – but it was not to be.

Good luck to the airport in the final

Final score: Knap FC 3 Cardiff Airport 4. **LI**

Wales women fall just short against Italians

WALES women came up just short against Italy at Pencoed RFC with a final score of 19 –15.

In the first half Naomi Thomas notched a breakaway try to set things off and at half time Wales looked confident of a win with a 12 - 0 lead.

Italy's pep talk led to a transformation in the match and they scored two tries in 10 minutes, and took the lead.

Wales could only add a penalty in the second half, and the players were devastated to come up short.

● Pencoed Phoenix women's team will play their first game at Pencoed on Easter Sunday at 2pm – come along there's entertainment and a barbecue.

Julie Hancock

Wanderers snatch defeat from the jaws of victory

VALE Wanderers faced St Peters at Dinas Powis and pushed their more experienced opponents to the brink of defeat.

Such has been the improvement in the Wanderers squad in recent weeks that the days of 40 point beatings seem a long way behind the team.

Wanderers dominated the contact area in the first five minutes, crunching tackles went in from second row Bradley Boyland and captain Rhys Forse.

After recovering from the shock of being knocked backwards on many occasions St Peters re-grouped to score the games opening try after some good ball retention work at the ruck. The try went un-converted.

The Wanderers came back at the visitors with powerful running from the pack and good hands from the backs who were supplied with good quality ball from the ever improving Theo Richards at 10.

From a series of drives out wide, Jordan Schembri picked up from the base of a ruck and used all of his height to place the ball on the try line for an unconverted try, to level the scores.

The half continued with the Wanderers dominating, however the visitors held firm to reach half time with the scores level.

The Wanderers started the second half with more hard hits and good ball retention.

The next try came from captain Rhys Forse who shook off several would be tacklers to score under the posts for a try which was converted by Theo Richards.

With St Peters looking shocked, the Wanderers extended their lead with another powerful surge by captain Forse which was again converted by Richards.

Several further chances to extend the lead went begging before St Peters hit back with two un-converted tries to bring the scores to 19-15.

The visitors decided to run the ball from deep and their replacement centre scored the winning try with only seconds left.

The Wanderers came back from the kick off but a knock on deep in the visitors 22 bought the game to an end.

The relief on the visitors faces was clear to see as was the disappointment on the Wanderers faces.

However, the boys can be very proud of the way they pushed St Peters to the end and came within inches of securing a fantastic victory.

TJ

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!

The GEM welcomes your match reports, and other club items of interest.
Email them to:
ggem@internet-today.co.uk
or post to the Editorial Department, The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL

Llancarfan trainer Evan's hat trick...

Llancarfan trainer Evan Williams teamed up with stable jockey Paul Moloney to bring off an astounding hat-trick at Taunton with *Halling Gal* (20-1), *Agente Romano* (11-1) and *Tiger O'Toole* (9-2) leaving his followers smiling all the way home.

Just for good measure, Debbie Hamer, who hails from Bridgend but who is now based in Carmarthen, took the novices' handicap hurdle with 25-1 chance *Michigan Assassin*.

Ogmore's Christian Williams notched-up a 33-1 double when landing the first two races at Huntingdon on *Haarth Sovereign*, the even money favourite and 16-1 chance *Talenti*.

Both are trained by Lawney Hill and the former won by two-and-a-quarter lengths from *Ten Pole Tudor* and the latter by five lengths from *Ackertac*.

Cowbridge's Bryn Palling, who recently celebrated his 80th birthday, landed the principal race at Southwell with his six-year-old *Arthur's Edge*, a 9-1 chance ridden by Welsh jockey David Probert.

Aberthin's Tim Vaughan chalked-up his first winner at Britain's newest racecourse, Ffos Las, when his *Chapel Flowers*, a 3-1 shot, ridden by stable jockey Richard Johnson, got home by a neck from *Alesandro Mantegna*.

BRIAN LEE

Tai Chi

A LOCAL group who have been learning Tai Chi through the Vale's lifelong learning courses for adults, are saying farewell to their teacher, Gwenan Evans, who leaves a "very happy, well informed group" that intends to carry on with a new teacher at the Youth Centre in Llantwit Major.

Anyone interested should contact the Old Hall at Cowbridge on 01446 773831.

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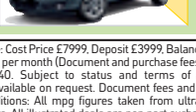

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New £12,182 **Ours £6,475** **Saving £5,707**
06 56 FORD Fiesta 1.6 5dr Style Climate AUTO. Only 2,300 miles!
New £11,275 **Ours £6,775** **Saving £4,500**
56 06 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.6 5dr Life (A/C) Blue met, **only 4,900 miles!**
New £14,975 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £8,000**
06 56 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Life A/C AUTO 5dr. Panacotta, **only 4,900 miles**
New £14,975 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £8,000**
06 56 FORD Fusion 1.6 Zetec Climate 5dr. Red met, **only 2.000 miles**
New £12,475 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £5,500**
06 56 FORD Focus C-Max Zetec 2.0 AUTO 5dr. Met mintgreen, **only 4300 miles!**
New £17,172 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £10,197**
06 56 NISSAN Micra 1.2 Sport 5dr. Grey met, **only 2,500 miles**
New £11,475 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £4,500**
06 56 RENAULT Clio 1.6 Expression AUTO 5dr. Met blue, **only 1760 miles!**
New £12,475 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £5,500**
06 56 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 5dr. Met black, **only 2500 miles!**
New £10,975 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £4,000**
06 56 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.65 dr Life (A/C) Blue met, **only 1,500 miles**
New £14,975 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £7,500**
06 06 RENAULT Grand Scenic 1.6 Dynamique. Red met, **only 4,500 miles!**
New £16,795 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £9,000**
58 09 FORD Fusion 1.4 5dr Style AUTO. Red met, **only 1,000 miles!**
New £11,275 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £3,500**
06 56 RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Dynamique AUTO. Gold met, **only 2,700 miles**
New £16,975 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £9,500**
06 56 FORD Fiesta 1.6 Style Climate AUTO. Blue met, **only 3,700 miles**
New £11,475 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £4,000**
06 56 FORD C-Max 2.0 Zetec AUTO MPV. Blue met, **only 4,500 miles**
New £17,475 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £10,000**
06 56 FORD Focus 1.6 Sport 5dr. Blue met, **only 5,600 miles**
New £13,975 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £6,500**
08 58 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 5dr. Blue met, **only 3,000 miles!**
New £10,175 **Ours £7,975** **Saving £2,200**
09 58 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 Life (A/C). Silver met, **only 741 miles**
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09 58 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.2 5dr Hatch. Black met, **only 2,600 miles**
New £10,475 **Ours £8,475** **Saving £2,000**
08 08 HONDA Jazz 1.4 5dr SE. Blue met, **only 4,800 miles!**
New £11,475 **Ours £8,975** **Saving £2,500**
09 09 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 5dr Life. Silver met, **only 1,700 miles!**
New £14,975 **Ours £9,475** **Saving £5,500**
09 09 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 5dr club AUTO. Silver met, **only 400 miles!**
New £11,975 **Ours £9,475** **Saving £2,500**
09 09 CITROEN Berlingo 1.6 HDi 5dr VTR. Blue met, **only 2,200 miles!**
New £12,475 **Ours £9,975** **Saving £2,500**
09 09 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style+ 5dr. Black met, **only 650 miles**
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06 **56 VOLVO XC90 2.4 D5 AWD (facelift) SE Geartronic AUTO.** In metallic silver with full black leather, colour satellite navigation, phone preparation, electric heated seats, climate control, parking sensors, 7 seats, only 58,722 miles **£19,995**

06 **56 BMW 318CI M Sport Convertible** in sapphire Black with full ebony leather interior, electric memory seats, cruise control, multi function steering wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, rear parking sensors, only 37,060 miles **£15,995**

06 **56 BMW 2.0TD 320D SE 4-dr Saloon.** In Arctic grey with anthracite interior, automatic air con, upgraded alloy wheels, rear parking sensors, only 41,655 miles, fsh **£13,995**

06 **56 BMW 116i SE 5-dr** in sparkling graphite met with full Boston beige leather interior, comfort pack, cd, climate control, alloy wheels, reversing sensors, auxiliary I-pod connection, only 19,950 miles interior titanium trim, auto lights and auto wipers **£11,995**

05 **55 BMW X5 3.0D Automatic Sport 5-Dr Station Wagon.** In sparkling graphite with black leather interior, automatic air con, sat nav, roof rails, 20" alloy wheels, front and rear parking sensors, only 65,660 miles **£19,995**

05 **05 BMW X5 3.0D Automatic Sport 5-Dr Station Wagon.** In sparkling graphite with black leather interior, 19" alloy wheels, air con, CD, front /rear parking sensors, privacy glass, only 51,000 miles **£17,995**

05 **05 MERCEDES Benz 1.8 SLK 200 Compressor Auto 2-dr Convertible** in Tellur silver, black leather interior, climate control, multi function steering wheel, CD, alloys, only 61,000 miles, fsh **£16,995**

05 **05 MERCEDES Benz M-Class 2.7 TD ML270 CDi Automatic 5-dr Station Wagon.** In Brilliant silver with Orion grey leather interior, climate control, Bluetooth phone prep, privacy glass, heated seats, rear parking sensors, only 52,975 miles **£15,995**

04 **54 MERCEDES Benz CL500 5 litre 2-dr Auto coupe.** In tanzanite blue with java leather interior with BOSE sound system, AMG body styling, electric sunroof, only 48,245 miles **£19,995**

01 **51 JAGUAR S-Type 3.0 V6 4-dr Saloon Automatic.** In Pacific blue with cashmere beige full leather interior, climate control, CD, electric seats, rear parking sensors, only 55,810 miles **£5,995**

SPORTS

07 **57 HYUNDAI Coupe 2.0 SIII** in steel grey with full red leather interior, climate control, sunroof, cruise control, alloy wheels, only 23,600 miles **£10,495**

07 **07 SEAT Leon 2.0 TDi DPF FR 5-Dr Hatchback.** In black magic with FR grey interior, cruise control, air con, traction control system, ESP, only 36,598 miles **£13,495**

06 **56 HONDA Civic 1.8i V-tec Type-S 3-dr Hatchback.** In alabaster silver with alcantara/suede interior, climate control, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 24,405 miles **£10,495**

06 **56 SAAB 9-3 1.9 Tid (150bhp) Vector 4-Dr Saloon Automatic.** In steel grey with half leather seats, steering wheel mounted gear change, climate control, rear parking sensors, in dash multi CD, only 46,905 miles **£8,995**

06 **56 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 16v SXi Sportshatch** in sapphire black with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, cd, air con, rear spoiler, only 40,600 miles **£6,995**

06 **06 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GT TDi 2.0 (140) 5-dr** in steel grey with dark interior, cd, dual climate control, cruise control, alloy wheels, electric mirrors, only 58,300 miles **£9,995**

06 **06 FORD Focus 1.8TDCi Sport 5-dr Hatchback.** In panther black with dark flint interior, CD, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 55,315 miles **£7,495**

06 **55 AUDI A3 2.0T FSi 5-dr Sport Back** in Avus silver with matrix cloth interior. BOSE speaker system, 17 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, climate conrol, cd, only 39,280 miles **£11,995**

05 **05 MINI 1.6 Cooper S (Chilli Pack).** Black, black leather interior, a/c, alloys, cd, rear parking sensors, only 49,390 miles **£10,995**

04 **04 PORSCHE Carrera 3.6 Convertible** in lapis blue with metropole leather, bose speaker upgrade, starlight navigation, phone system, cruise control, trip computer, heated seats, sports exhaust systemm, full Porsche service history, hard top, only 42,761 miles **£29,995**

04 **54 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GTi 2.0T FSI (200ps) 3-dr.** In reflex silver with interlagos interior, climate control, traction control, tyre pressure monitor, trip computer, sports seats, alloy wheels, only 69,192 miles **£9,995**

04 **54 VAUXHALL Tigra Convertible 1.8 Sport** in Kingfisher blue with anthracite interior, electric roof, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 62,840 miles **£6,395**

04 **54 MG TF 1.8 135 Convertible.** In ignition blue with anthracite Sebring interior, alloy wheels, cd player, alarm and immobiliser only 27,100 miles **£4,995**

04 **04 RENAULT Clio 182 Sport 3-dr Hatchback.** In met blue with half leather/suede interior, sports seats, traction control, cruise control, climate control, alloys, 6 cd auto changer, only 51,314 miles **£5,995**

04 **04 CITROEN C2 1.6 VTR Sensodrive** in arctic steel silver with neutron mesh interior, paddle shift, alloy wheels, air con, colour coded bumpers, rear spoiler, cd, only 62,100 miles **£4,295**

04 **53 LAND ROVER Freelander 1.8S 3-Dr Hard Top.** In Bonatti grey with black dune interior, glass roof panels, air con, alarm, traction control system, only 54,460 miles **£5,495**

03 **53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-door Convertible.** In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles **£4,495**

02 **02 MG ZS 2.5 180.** In anthracite black, with monaco ash interior with red inserts, alloy wheels, a/c, cd, colour coded bumpers, front fogs, alarm and immobiliser, only 62,310 miles **£2,995**

01 **Y AUDI TT Roadster 1.8T Quattro (225)** in met silver with full granite leather, 18" alloy wheels, heated seats, trip computer, cruise control + climate control, cd multi-changer with BOSE stereo upgrade, only 63,583 miles **£8,495**

00 **X PORSCHE Boxster 3.2S** in basalt black with full black leather, upgraded 18 inch sport design alloy wheels, heated seats, cd with i-pod connection, wind deflector, colour coded hardtop, fsh, only 73,813 miles **£10,995**

99 **T BMW Z3 1.9 2-dr Convertible.** In Green with green leather interior, colour coded bumpers, CD, alloy wheels, electric hood, wind deflector, only 51,743 miles **£5,995**

FAMILY

06 **56 TOYOTA Corolla T2 Colour Collection, 1.4 5-dr Hatchback.** In eclipse black with silver fleck interior, a/c, alloys, colour coded side skirts, audio controls on steering wheel, one owner, only 32,415 miles **£7,995**

05 **55 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique** in met platinum silver with ruche cloth interior, auto lights, auto wipers, air con, cd, clour coded bumpers, only 16,380 miles **£5,795**

05 **55 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Breeze 5-dr** in silver lightening metallic with alpha interior, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, cd, air con, only 57,604 miles **£5,395**

05 **05 VW Bora 1.9 TDi Highline 4-Dr Saloon.** In black with beige leather interior, air con, heated seats, rear parking sensors, cruise control, only 57,655 miles **£7,495**

05 **05 HONDA Civic 1.7 CDTi** in magnetic blue with hatch fabric interior, alloy wheels, air con, cd, colour coded bumpers, only 55,130 miles **£6,495**

04 **54 MG ZT-T 1.8T 160 5-dr Estate** in royal blue with Monaco ash leather interior, air con, alloy wheels, roof rails, alarm, only 32,000 miles **£5,995**

04 **04 TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 VVTi T-Spirit Auto 4-dr Saloon.** Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles **£6,495**

02 **52 NISSAN Almera 1.8 SVE 5-dr Hatchback.** In caterpillar green with grey tungsten cloth, cd, a/c, reversing sensors, colour coded bumpers, only 44,300 miles **£3,995**

01 **Y BMW 3 Series 1.9i 316 4-dr Saloon.** In bright red with dark interior, electric windows, colour coded bumpers, driver and passenger airbags, only 49,125 miles **£4,295**

SMALL

09 **09 VAUXHALL Corsa SXi 5-dr Auto** in sapphire black with dark interior, air con, cd with aux connections, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 16,295 miles **£9,995**

09 **09 CHEVROLET Aveo LT 1.4** in pearl black with bricket cloth, aircon, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, alarm and immobiliser, cd, only 16,900 miles **£6,995**

08 **58 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v Design (A/C).** 5 door in ice blue with dark interior, air con, MP3 input, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, only 19,950 miles **£8,495**

08 **58 TOYOTA Yaris 1.0 VVT-I T2 5-dr Hatchback.** In crystal silver, electric windows and mirrors, CD, multi-function steering wheel, only 3,725 miles **£7,995**

07 **07 RENAULT Clio Dynamique 1.4 5-dr Hatchback** in silver with black interior, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, fog lights, only 37,550 miles **£5,995**

06 **56 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 VVTI T3 3-dr** in eclipse black with Picardie cloth interior, a/con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers and privacy glass, remote central locking, alarm and immobiliser, cd, only 30,305 miles **£6,495**

06 **06 FORD Fiesta Zetec 5-dr** in panther black with dark interior, alloy wheels, air con, colour ceded bumpers, f ront fogs, only 18,131 miles **£5,995**

06 **06 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-dr Hatchback.** In platinum silver with grey interior, alloy wheels, steering wheel mounted audio controls, colour coded bumpers, CD, only 19,860 miles **£5,995**

06 **55 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v Dynamique (A/C) 3-Dr Hatchback.** In capsicum red with black interior, 16" Canasta alloy wheels, electric sunroof, air con, CD, only 30,800 miles **£5,695**

05 **05 MINI 1.6 One (salt) 3-dr Hatchback.** In pure silver with anthracite interior, 6 CD changer, automatic dipping rear-view mirror, panoramic roof, body coloured bumpers, only 39,600 miles **£7,995**

04 **04 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Coupe Cabriolet 2-dr** in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, air con, cdm alloy wheels, alarm, only 43,895 miles **£6,495**

04 **04 FORD Fiesta 1.4 SILVER Limited Edition.** In moondust silver with full midnight black leather, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, cd, only 29,775 miles **£4,995**

04 **04 ROVER Streetwise 1.4 16v 3-dr** in trophy yellow with sebring half leather interior, cd, roof rails, rear spoiler, alarm and immobiliser, only 41,590 miles **£3,495**

02 **02 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 Coupe Cabriolet S 2-dr** in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, auto lights, only 64,220 miles **£5,495**

02 **52 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique 3-dr Hatchback** in met silver with dark interior, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, auto lights, only 48,060 miles **£3,495**

02 **02 MINI 1.6 One (Salt Pack) 3-Dr Hatchback.** In liquid yellow with Kelido grey interior, air con, CD, alloy wheels, only 51,325 miles **£5,995**

01 **51 MINI 1.6 Cooper (Chilli Pack) 3-Dr Hatchback.** In blue with upgraded black leather interior, air con, panoramic roof, CD, alloy wheels, only 51,500 miles **£5,995**

01 **51 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Coupe Cabriolet SE 2-dr** in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, digital climate control, cd, 16 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, only 46.010 miles **£3,995**

07 **57 HYUNDAI Coupe 2.0 SI TI** in graphite grey with full red leather interior, climate control, sunroof, cruise control, alloy wheels, only 24,000 miles **£10,495**

05 **05 MERCEDES Benz 1.8 SLK 200 Compressor Auto 2-dr Convertible** in Tellur silver, black leather interior, climate control, multi function steering wheel, CD, alloys, only 61,000 miles, fsh **£16,995**

06 **56 HONDA Civic 1.8i V-Tec Type-S 3-dr Hatchback.** In alabaster silver with alcantara/suede interior, climate control, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 24,405 miles **£10,495**

06 **56 SAAB 9-3 1.9 Tid (150bhp) Vector 4-Dr Saloon Automatic.** In steel grey with half leather seats, steering wheel mounted gear change, climate control, rear parking sensors, in dash multi CD, only 46,905 miles **£8,995**

05 **05 VW Bora 1.9 TDi Highline 4-dr Saloon.** In black with beige leather interior, air con, heated seats, rear parking sensors, cruise control, only 57,655 miles **£7,495**

08 **58 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v Design (A/C).** 5 door in ice blue with dark interior, air con, MP3 input, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, only 19,950 miles **£8,495**

05 **05 MINI 1.6 One (salt) 3-dr Hatchback.** In pure silver with anthracite interior, 6 CD changer, automatic dipping rear-view mirror, panoramic roof, body coloured bumpers, only 39,600 miles **£7,995**

02 **02 MG ZS 2.5 180.** In anthracite black, with monaco ash interior with red inserts, alloy wheels, a/c, cd, colour coded bumpers, front fogs, alarm and immobiliser, only 62,310 miles **£2,995**

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06 Mini One 1.6i 3dr Please feel free to contact our sales team on 01446 738088, alternatively call Tim on 07815 . . .£7,995

05 Mercedes Benz A150 Classic SE 1.5 5dr NEW SHAPE in green met. Low ins and tax. Air con, e/w, pas, ASR £6,995

53 Audi A3 1.6 FSI Sport 3dr in blue met NEW SHAPE 73k FASH, loaded alloys, a/c £6,995

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54 Volkswagen Golf 2.0 S SDI 5dr (A/C) Diesel. Please feel free to contact our sales team on 01446 738088 . . . . . .£5,995

55 Mazda 3 1.6 5dr TS2 in grey met, 5-door ONLY 47k, alloys, air con, pas, climate £5,995

06 Peugeot 206 2.0 GTI 180 BHP 3dr (a/c) in black, Genuine 180 BHP, Full alcantara trim. ONLY 50K. F/lift £5,995

02 Lexus IS 200 2.0 SE 4-dr Auto. Petrol, transite blue met, fsh, 72,000 miles, 17 inch alloys £5,495

06 Volkswagen Polo 1.2 E (55BHP) new shape in grey met. LOW INSURANCE 1.2. Low mileage. Unmarked £5,495

55 Renault Scenic 1.4 16v Dynamique 5dr in silver met. NEW SHAPE 5dr MPV. ONLY 33,000 FRSH. A/C, pas £5,495

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52 Ford Ka 1.3 Luxury 3dr in black met, ONLY 61,000 miles in excellent cond. Full black leather, a/c £2,995

03 Rover Streetwise 1.4 S 3-door in red met, ONLY 62,000 miles. STUNNING condition £2,495

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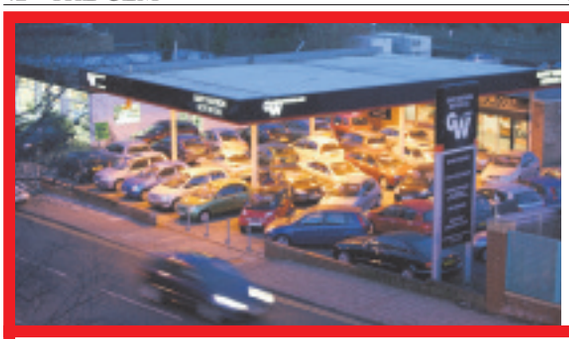

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56 SUZUKI Swift 1.5 VVTi GLX 5-dr. In silver, 31,000 miles with keyless go, alloys, etc **£5,995**

57 BMW 320 Diesel M Sport Auto In black with cream leather, 30,000 miles, 1 lady owner ....**REDUCED BY £500 TO £19,495**

06 CITROEN C8 2.0 HDi SXi. In turquoise met, 58,000 miles, 1 owner, fsh, diesel, 7 seater. **£7,995**

03 AUDI TT 180. In met blue with black leather trim, 74,000 miles **£8,995**

06 CHEVROLET Kalos 1.4 Sport 3-dr. In black, with black leather trim, 37,000 miles **£4,695**

SPORT, PRESTIGE & 4X4

04	**MERCEDES SL55 AMG.** In met silver with grey leather trim, 33,000 miles, panoramic roof, command Bose etc.	**£32,995**
57	**BMW 320 Diesel M Sport Auto.** In black with cream leather, 30,000 miles, 1 lady owner	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £19,495**
56	**BMW 335 Diesel SE Coupe Automatic.** In dolphin grey with black leather, 26,000 miles	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £19,495**
07	**NISSAN 350Z 313 bhp GT.** In silver with black leather trim, low mileage local top of the range sports car at	**£17,995**
05	**MERCEDES CLK 220 CDi.** In silver with grey leather trim, 60,000 miles, usual refinements	**£14,695**
53	**JAGUAR XJ8 3.6 Automatic.** In silver with cream leather trim, 53,000 miles, luxury motoring at	**£11,995**
06	**MINI 1.6 Convertible.** In black, 35,000 miles, fun for the summer at	**£9,995**
55	**MINI Cooper S Chilli.** In British Racing Green with white roof + mirrors, full leather trim, 29,000 miles, 1 previous owner, host of extras	**£9,995**
04	**VW Beetle 2.0 Convertible.** In red, 47,000 miles, 1 owner, 4 seater convertible	**£8,995**
03	**AUDI TT 180.** In met blue with black leather trim, 74,000 miles	**£8,995**
06	**MINI Cooper.** In met blue + white, 37,000 miles, 1 owner with chilli pack and climate	**REDUCED BY £800 TO £8,495**
56	**RENAULT Megane 2.0 Convertible.** In met blue, 31,000 miles, 4-seater convertible at	**£7,995**
51	**AUDI TT 225 Quattro.** In dark blue with full leather trim, 68,000 miles with BOSE, Zenons, multi cd, heated seats	**£7,495**
05	**RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique CC.** In silver, 43,000 miles, 4 seater convertible at	**£6,995**
02	**JAGUAR S Type 2.5 SE Auto.** Silver with black leather, low mileage, local car	**£5,995**
R	**MERCEDES SLK 230 Auto.** In green black with two tone leather trim, great value Mercedes Convertible at	**£5,995**
52	**PEUGEOT 206 CC 2.0 SE.** In silver with black leather trim, 57,000 miles, 4-seater convertible	**£4,995**
02	**TOYOTA Corolla T-Sport 3-dr.** In champagne metallic, 63,000 miles, 1 local owner, FSH	**£4,295**
54	**FORD KA 1.6 Sport SE.** In met blue, 33,000 miles, fsh, 1 owner, full leather trim, a/c, etc	**£3,995**
Y	**PEUGEOT 206CC 2.0.** In silver, with black leather trim, low mileage local convertible	**REDUCED BY £1000 TO £3,995**
02	**MG ZT 2.5.** In silver with sports interior, looks and drives superb at	**£3,795**

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06	**CITROEN C8 2.0 HDi SXi.** In turquoise met, 58,000 miles, 1 owner, fsh, diesel, 7 seater	**£7,995**
55	**HONDA Civic 1.6 Executive 5-dr.** In forest pearl silver with black leather trim, 35,000 miles, fsh	**£7,495**
07	**RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique Automatic 5-dr.** In met sand, 18,000 miles, 1 owner	**£6,995**
07	**SUZUKI Swift 1.5 GLX 5-dr.** In black, 13.000 miles, high specification model at	**£6,995**
07	**PEUGEOT 207 1.4S 5-dr.** In black, low mileage, 1 owner hatch.	**£6,995**
07	**RENAULT Laguna 2.0 DCi 150 Expression 5-Dr.** In met. Blue, 32,000 miles, 1 owner, with sat nav etc.	**£6,995**
56	**FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec Climate Automatic 3-dr.** In black, 12,000 miles, superb value at	**£6,995**
07	**FIAT Grande Punto 1.4 Dynamique Sport Automatic.** Met blue, 23,000 miles	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £6,495**
07	**RENAULT Clio 12 Expression 3-dr.** In steel blue, 33,000 miles with a/c, c/d, etc	**£6,495**
56	**FORD Focus 1.4LX 5-dr.** In electric blue, 30,000 miles with a/c, cd, etc	**£6,495**
56	**PEUGEOT 307 1.6S 5-Dr.** In black, low mileage example with alloys, a/c, etc, ideal family hatch.	**£6,295**
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03	**FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi 130 Ghia X Estate Auto.** In silver with black leather trim, low mileage top of the range estate	**£4,695**
06	**CHEVROLET Kalos 1.4 Sport 3-dr.** In black, with black leather trim, 37,000 miles	**£4,695**
04	**FORD Fiesta 1.4 Silver 3-Dr.** 62,000 miles with full leather trim, A/C, CD etc.	**£4,495**
04	**FORD Focus 1.6 Edge 5-dr.** In light met-blue, low mileage example with alloys, a/c, etc.	**£4,495**
53	**RENAULT Clio 2.0 Sport 172.** In met black, high specification sports hatch	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,495**
52	**VAUXHALL Zafira 2.2 Elegance Automatic.** In silver, 44,000 miles, 7 seater	**£4,495**
04	**CITROEN C3 1.4 HDi Desire.** In silver, 61,000 miles with a/c, c/d etc	**£4,295**
53	**FORD Fiesta 1.4 Flame 5-dr.** In silver, 49,000 miles, with a/c	**£4,295**
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04	**FIAT Punto 1.2 Active 3-dr.** In met-red, low running cost hatch at	**£2,995**
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GEM sport

Victory brings a welcome breathing space, but a more testing time ahead

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

AS a disappointing Six Nations finally drew to a close, the relief on Welsh coach Warren Gatland's face was palpable at the Millennium Stadium on Saturday.

Two victories may have been a poor return from a frustrating campaign in which his team had persistently shot themselves in the foot, but it could have been so much worse!

While the 33-10 home win over Italy was as welcome as it was necessary, to stave off his inevitable critics, the New Zealander knows they will not be kept at bay for long should there not be a marked upsurge in Welsh fortunes, amid concern that Team Wales had lost its way since the exhilarating Grand Slam in 2008.

There is no doubt, as was proven in the vastly-improved display on Saturday, that certain key individuals have been badly missed of late, particularly in the absence through injury of the Lions' front row.

Gethin Jenkins, Matthew Rees and Adam Jones were finally reunited against Italy, and with the return of scrum half Mike Phillips, the revitalised Welsh team looked a totally different proposition against a battling Italian side that had already beaten fellow Wooden Spoon candidates Scotland.

However, Gatland well knew that nothing less than a convincing victory over the Six Nations' so-called 'minnows' would silence the negative mutterings and at least end the campaign on a positive note. With the set piece problems that had haunted previous matches at last sorted out (particularly the previously malfunctioning lineout) giving man-of-the-match outside half Stephen Jones the space and time to do what he does best, controlling proceedings, the threequarters were freed to at last show glimpses of their true worth.

Suddenly, Wales were scoring tries again, with James Hook gliding through for two touchdowns and a third added by the not-to-be-denied Shane Williams in the second half.

On the other wing, accomplished teenager Tom Prydie made a very impressive international debut and with full back Lee Byrne returning to something like his old form, promising opportunities were being created in abundance as Wales finally found themselves playing on the front foot.

However, the squad also knew that victory over Italy and the scrambled last-ditch win over Scotland cannot disguise deep-seated shortcomings that surfaced in recent months and will certainly need to be put right long before the Rugby World Cup comes along next year, if Wales hope to match the All Blacks *et al.*

Wales now appear rooted in fourth place in the Six Nations table and will have to show a considerable improvement, with far sterner tests to come against the southern hemisphere giants, beginning with the South African world champions in June followed by a short two-test tour of New Zealand.

In contrast, France now seem to be proceeding smoothly along a well-ordered path laid out by coach Marc Lievremont, buoyed by their Grand Slam-deciding 12 -10 win over England in Paris.

Ireland's Triple Crown expectations were abruptly dashed by Scotland's unexpected 23-20 victory at Croke Park. The unlucky Scots have been a revelation, under their new coach Andy Robinson and deserved more than their misleading place languishing near the foot of the table.

They are justified in their belief that they should have beaten both England and Wales.

Be that as it may, the result against Italy has given the Welsh camp a welcome breathing space.

At least they avoided the final ignominy of a Wooden Spoon and now have an opportunity to regroup, address the problems manifested during the tournament, and focus afresh on the strategy for 2011.

Gatland's squad will need to put behind them the frustrations and disappointments of a nondescript Six Nations in which no team stood out with the quality of their play.

Wales were too often undone more by their own error-strewn shortcomings and lack of discipline than by superior opposition.

Despite the encouraging recovery shown against the resilient Italians, lessons are still there to be learned if Wales are to step up to the much higher level needed, before being exposed to the far harsher glare of the World Cup spotlight.

Nine is the magic number for Town

COWBRIDGE TOWN seniors racked up yet another league win on Saturday as they made an emphatic return to the Bear Field at the expense of Island Marine, who had to pick the ball out of their net no fewer than nine times.

In-form Cowbridge were high on morale and were searching for another three points to put on the board.

Cowbridge looked to find their expansive style that had been rewarding them with victories in previous weeks.

A slow start to the game helped Cowbridge feel out their opponents, as a new midfield combination for Cowbridge seemingly needed time to gel.

The deadlock was broken midway through the first half when Gethin Still released Jack Gavin through the centre, who found the bottom corner with a good finish.

Cowbridge went two up shortly afterwards as winger Nic Vaile took it upon himself to release a venomous drive into the roof of the net.

Island Marine, however, had other thoughts as they clawed their way back into the game, making it 2-2 just before half time.

A good ball from defender Hughes helped midfielder Still break the offside trap and knock it past the goalkeeper to make it 3-2 to Cowbridge at half time, but the game was up for grabs for both teams.

The second half kicked off and a much more organised Cowbridge looked relentless in their pursuit of victory, as Island Marine were simply blown away.

A well-delivered free kick was headed handsomely past the keeper from captain Craig Burrows, as Cowbridge looked to take the game out of sight.

Minutes later, Nic Vaile's attacking threat was highlighted as great positioning found him slotting past the keeper from close range to make it 5-2.

Another cross from the right flank found captain Burrows ghosting in at the back post to slot the ball past a helpless Marine goalkeeper.

A free kick just outside the box made it seven, the goal coming from dead ball specialist Jack Gavin.

Attacks continued for the home team as midfielder Still placed a delicious shot into the top corner of the goal from the 18 yard line and the cherry was put on the icing of the cake when striker Gavin rolled the ball past the Marine goalkeeper to claim his third hat trick of the season and seal another victory for the boys in red and black.

Cowbridge now turn their heads to the all important semi-final of the cup against FC Pumas.

The game will be played on Ceri Road in Rhoose at 2pm this Saturday March 27.

Please come and show your support for Cowbridge as they look to get through to a historical cup final!

The boys will be meeting at Cowbridge Leisure Centre at 12.30, feel free to come down and follow us to the ground.

GS

Point-to-Point at Ystradowen

THE Glamorgan Hunt are holding their annual point-to-point steeplechases at Ystradowen on Saturday and racing gets under way at 1pm with the members' race which has been reintroduced after a long absence, *writes Brian Lee*.

The open race is a mixed open – men and women riders – and before it is run there will be a parade of the Glamorgan hounds.

An exciting afternoon's racing is promised and more information can be obtained from the honorary secretary Mr Peter Thomas on 01446 774310.

A marriage made in rugby

COWBRIDGE Ladies were finally back out on the field when they travelled west to take on a new addition to the league this season, Amman United.

Cowbridge demonstrated knowledge and skill on the pitch, displaying how they have progressed from previous seasons. Amman did not give in to them easily but were unfortunately unable to put any points on the scoreboard on the day.

The final score was 55-0 to Cowbridge. Tries were scored by Alexis Walker (4), Katie O'Neill (2), Phillipa Kinsella (1) and Anna Jenkins (2). Conversions were made by Anna Jenkins (5).

The team would like to extend their congratulations and best wishes to captain Rebecca Porter-Strong on her marriage to Pontypridd RFC captain Nathan Strong. Team and club wish you both the very best for your future together.

HL

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